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ANDRES KUDACK/AP

Police block a street by the Port Authority Bus Terminal near New York's Times Square following an explosion on Monday. Police said the explosion happened in an underground passageway under 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

3 hurt in blast near Times Square

Inspired by ISIS, Brooklyn man detonates pipe bomb in crowded subway corridor

BY COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A crude pipe bomb strapped to a man inspired by Islamic State went off Monday in a crowded subway corridor near Times Square, injuring the man, slightly wounding three others and snarling the rush-hour commute for hundreds of thousands of New York workers.

Surveillance cameras captured the man walking casually through the crowded passageway when the bomb suddenly went off

“This was an attempted terrorist attack. Thank God the perpetrator did not achieve his ultimate goal.”

New York mayor, in a statement to reporters on Monday morning's subway explosion

at 7:20 a.m. amid a plume of white smoke, which cleared to show the man sprawled on the ground and commuters fleeing in terror. Investigators said it was not clear if the

bomb was set off intentionally or went off prematurely.

“This was an attempted terrorist attack,”
SEE BLAST ON PAGE 8

Bill de Blasio

Pentagon: Trans people permitted to enlist Jan. 1

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is allowing transgender people to enlist in the military beginning Jan. 1, despite President Donald Trump's opposition.

The new policy reflects growing legal pressure on the issue, and the difficult hurdles the federal government would have to cross to enforce Trump's demand to ban transgender people from the military. Two federal courts already have ruled against the ban.



Trump

Potential transgender recruits will have to satisfy a lengthy and strict set of physical, medical and mental requirements that make it possible, though difficult, for them to join the armed services.

Maj. David Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman, said the enlistment of transgender recruits will start Jan. 1 and will go on amid the legal battles. The Defense Department also is studying the issue.

Eastburn told The Associated Press on Monday that the new guidelines mean the Pentagon can disqualify potential recruits with gender dysphoria, a history of medical treatments associated with gender transition and those who underwent reconstruction. But such recruits are allowed in if a medical provider certifies they've been clinically stable in the preferred sex for 18 months and are free of significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas.

Transgender individuals receiving hormone therapy also must be stable on their medications for 18 months.

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Eagles lose star QB Wentz for season in win over Rams » NFL, Back page

WAR/MILITARY

US, Afghan troops to target ISIS in northwest

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. and Afghan special operations forces are preparing an offensive against Islamic State enclaves in northwestern Afghanistan, where the group has gained a foothold despite an intensive allied effort to destroy it.

Since early last year, when the U.S. State Department designated the regional ISIS branch a terrorist organization, U.S. troops have aided Afghan forces battling the Islamic State-Khorasan Province, or ISIS-K, mainly in eastern Afghanistan, where it sprouted in 2015.

Operations against a budding ISIS-K group in the northwest began as soon as this week, said Gen. Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry.

"These operations are to chase the enemy — the terrorists who oppose the Afghan people and the Afghan National Defense Security Forces," he said.

The campaign comes as reports indicate ISIS veterans could be filtering into northern Afghanistan from Iraq and Syria as the group's grasp on that region slips.

U.S. officials have maintained that battle-hardened ISIS fighters haven't made their way into Afghanistan, but a report on Sunday by the Agence France Presse news agency cast doubt on whether that's still the case.

Citing local officials, AFP reported that an unknown number of Algerian and French nationals, along with Chechens and Uzbeks, entered ISIS-held territory in



DOUG ELLIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

An Afghan Air Force leader meets with Special Tactics airmen from U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command to discuss plans to increase airpower at airfields in Faryab province Nov. 29.

Afghanistan's northwestern Jowzjan province last month. At least three of them are believed to have fought in Iraq and Syria.

The military has "nothing substantial to corroborate those reports," military spokesman Lt. Col. Kone Faulkner said Sunday.

Even before the latest report, U.S. troops and their Afghan counterparts were expected to launch efforts to destroy ISIS-K "where they have appeared in Jowzjan and Faryab" provinces, Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, told Pentagon reporters in late November. He said then it was a matter of days.

At the time, U.S. Special Tactics airmen and Afghan air force

officials were surveying airfields in Faryab province to accommodate special operations and conventional aircraft, according to a military news release in November.

"Our work is critical to extending the access and reach to fight our adversaries in their safe havens," one unnamed Special Tactics airmen said in the news release.

Since early 2016, more than a dozen ISIS leaders and thousands of its fighters have been killed. This year, officials vowed to totally eradicate the group, which has carried out several devastating attacks in the Afghan capital.

"We're committed to their destruction wherever they appear

across the country," Nicholson said.

Much of that fight so far has been in eastern Nangarhar province, where more than one-third of the 21 U.S. combat deaths in the country since January 2016 have occurred.

Since March, the U.S. has conducted more than 1,400 ground operations and strikes against ISIS-K, killing more than 1,600 fighters and destroying more than 600 of the group's structures and fighting positions, Nicholson said.

One of the highest-profile strikes came in April, when an Air Force MC-130 dropped a Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, known as "the mother of all bombs," on a cave network in Nangarhar province. Officials said it killed nearly 100 ISIS-K fighters.

The constant military pressure has kept ISIS-K from establishing a caliphate in the country, officials said. The group is composed mainly of militants from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. They swapped allegiances, enticed partly by the prospect of better pay supported by funding from the main ISIS group in the Middle East, officials have said.

"They're now largely cut off from their outside funding, Nicholson said last month, and "they're having trouble replacing their leaders."

Fighters were not migrating from Iraq and Syria, Nicholson said, "because they know if they come here, they will face death."

Earlier this year, ISIS-K was thought to have only a few hundred fighters, down from a high of up to 3,000, but officials now say around 1,100 fighters are

operating throughout the country. About 300 are believed to be operating in Kunar and Jowzjan provinces, Faulkner said.

Radmanish, the Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, said the anticipated operations were planned in response to reports ISIS-K fighters were attempting to expand.

Faulkner declined to comment on ongoing operations, including those in Faryab and Jowzjan, out of concern for operational security. Both provinces have seen relatively few coalition fatalities in the past 16 years, with no reported U.S. combat deaths in Faryab province for five years and 10 in Jowzjan, according to a database maintained by the website iCasualties.org.

Nicholson has said all six of Afghanistan's military corps, as well as its special operations unit, have been simultaneously on the offensive this year.

U.S. forces have also been more aggressively striking the Taliban in the country's south in recent weeks.

One unnamed Special Tactics airmen on his fifth deployment who is assessing Faryab province's airfields in preparation for increased airpower against ISIS-K there said he sensed a shift in the fight.

"You can feel the difference this year," he said. "A new commitment to extending the fight to the heart of the enemy."

Zubair Babakarkhali contributed to this report.
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PACIFIC

Report: Arms sales rise amid N. Korean threat, F-35 demand

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The growing threat from North Korea and demand for advanced fighter jets helped spur the first increase in global arms sales in six years, a leading research institute said Monday.

Sales of weapons and military services by the world's largest defense contractors totaled \$374.8 billion in 2016, a 1.9 percent increase from the previous year, according to the most recent international arms industry data from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

It was the first year of growth by the top 100 arms-producing and military services companies since 2010, when the figure was \$432 billion, SIPRI said.

U.S. companies on the list increased their share of arms sales to 57.9 percent, with a combined total of \$217.2 billion in 2016, boosted by military operations overseas and the acquisition of large weapon systems by other countries, according to the report.

That growth was led by the world's biggest arms producer, Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed Martin Corp., which saw its sales climb 10.7 percent.

"With the acquisition of helicopter producer Sikorsky in late 2015 and higher delivery volumes of the F-35 combat aircraft, Lockheed Martin reported significant growth in its arms sales in 2016," said Aude Fleurant, director of SIPRI's Arms and Military Expenditure Program.

South Korea, meanwhile, took a step toward its goal of becoming a major arms exporter, dominating arms sales by emerging producers that also include Brazil, India and Turkey.

South Korean companies,

which occupied eight spots in the top 100, saw a 20.6 percent overall increase in arms sales and total sales amounting to \$8.4 billion, SIPRI said.

"Continuing and rising threat perceptions drive South Korea's acquisitions of military equipment, and it is increasingly turning to its own arms industry to supply its demand for weapons," said Siemon Wezeman, a senior researcher at SIPRI. "At the same time, South Korea is aiming to realize its goal of becoming a major arms exporter."

The U.S.-allied nation increased its defense spending by 7 percent to nearly \$40 billion in

next year's budget.

President Moon Jae-in has stressed the urgency in improving South Korea's ability to defend against the North, which has test-fired three intercontinental ballistic missiles and conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test this year.

"We must realize superiority over North Korea based on overwhelming power to ensure our own peace and security," he said Friday.

SIPRI said Japan's largest arms companies — including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. — experienced



Courtesy of the Blue House

South Korean President Moon Jae-in gestures in a T-50 trainer jet on Oct. 17, the opening day of the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition.

sharp falls last year.

The database, which is based on sales of military goods and services to military customers, doesn't include Chinese compa-

nies that are large enough to rank among the top 100 but lack accurate, comparable data.

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S. Korea imposes new sanctions on North

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea added several North Korean groups and individuals to its sanctions list Monday in a largely symbolic move that is part of efforts to cut off funding for the North's weapons programs.

The government said those added were 20 North Korean groups, including several banks and companies, and 12 individuals.

The blacklist includes Rason International Commercial Bank and Korea Zinc Industrial Group. Individuals are North Korean officials who work for the country's banks or companies based in China, Russia, Vietnam and Namibia.

Separately on Monday, South Korea, the U.S. and Japan started two-day missile-tracking drills in response to North Korea's missile and nuclear threats.

MILITARY



Marines come ashore on Tulagi Island during the World War II Guadalcanal-Tulagi Operation, probably during the landings there between Aug. 7-8, 1942.

COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/
National Archives

Lost & found

A storage unit opened, and a family's World War II service and secrets are revealed

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The storage unit's corrugated metal door slid upward, revealing 100 square feet of mostly empty space. Not very promising, thought Joe Alosi, a businessman who bid on units, sight unseen, when tenants stopped paying the rent. Several plastic bins sat in the middle of the floor, and dust billowed as Alosi peeled off the first lid.

Inside, tightly packed, were rows of envelopes. Alosi opened one, and then another, and then another. The Marine Corps veteran felt a slight chill.

The mostly handwritten letters, on tissue-thin paper, dated to World War II and were penned mostly by the members of a single family — the Eydes, of Rockford, Ill. Three brothers were in the military: one in the Marine Corps, one in the Army and one in the Army Air Forces.

There were hundreds of letters, stretching over four years of war and beyond. They captured the horrors of combat, offered war reminiscences of childhood and exchanges about everything from the movie "Casablanca" to the brothers' beloved Chicago Cubs. The brothers also used racist and pejorative language, including in their descriptions of Japanese and German forces.

"I've seen multiple times the way people leave things, you know?" Alosi said. "And when they leave them in a certain way, it's like they don't plan on coming back."

What remained was the story contained in the letters.

The war begins

"We have been called out on air raid alarms the last few days, but you know as much about what was happening as I do, the radio is the only dope we get as well as you about them Japs and Nasty Germans. Bastards are what they are, raiding without warnings, sneaking up at night and such wrong methods of a clean fight."

— Frank Eyde, in a letter home on Dec. 10, 1941

Lorentz Eyde and Margaret Larsen separately came to the United States from Norway and married in Rockford in 1908. He was a cabinetmaker, she a homemaker, and they settled in a small three-bedroom home on tree-lined Fremont Street.

Frank, the eldest child, graduated from Rockford Central High School in 1933, the same year that Adolf Hitler became German chancellor.

Frank enlisted as a Marine in October 1939 at age 26, shortly after Germany invaded Poland. Two years later, Frank's younger brother, Ralph, quit his factory job at George D. Roper Corp. to enlist as an Army infantryman at age 23.

In a stroke of good luck, both brothers

were stationed in California — Frank with the 2nd Marine Division's 2nd Tank Battalion at San Diego's Camp Elliott, and Ralph with the 32nd Infantry Regiment of the Army's 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, a sprawling installation near Monterey.

Conflict in Europe and Asia seemed far away. "All this falseness of war, it's hokey!" Frank wrote home in November 1941.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor. U.S. troops up and down the California coastline began pulling patrols to watch for enemy bombers, as well as preparing to deploy to the Pacific. An attack on the mainland seemed entirely possible.

"No telling when I'll go home now," Ralph wrote to his brother, John, the youngest sibling, on Dec. 18. "Won't even get Christmas off. Stood five and a half hours of straight guard last night. Shoot anyone suspicious lurking around in wee hours of morning."

Frank described the changes in San Diego: "All the shops are putting black paper on their windows and when the alarm goes, all lights will have to go out except those on the inside that can't be seen from the street," he wrote four days after the attack.

In Rockford, the other two brothers — Sanford, the second oldest, and John — considered what they might do in the military. Sanford, 26 when the war began, worked at the Woodward Governor factory as a carpenter and received a deferment.

Ralph urged John, 21, who ran a lathe at Roper Corp., making aircraft parts for the military, to enlist but avoid a job in the combat arms.

"If you want my true thoughts on your best bet, it's the aviation mechanical line on airplane motors. Best pay, course you study while you work + when you get out, you've a high paying trade," Ralph wrote.

The Battle of Tulagi

"What I saw I will never forget. I was on a guncrew that shot down a Jap bomber coming right at us about 20 feet off the water and about 25 feet from our boat. In all, our ship shot down five bombers coming right close to the ship, trying to crash into it."

— Frank Eyde, in a letter home in summer 1942

Frank became a section chief for an intelligence unit in 2nd Tank Battalion, overseeing 18 men. He told his father in a letter home in May 1942 that he had

learned how to do everything from changing the treads on a tank to using a 37 mm antitank gun that was pulled by a Jeep.

"Wherever I am, I know how to take care of myself and you know my speed, so watch them babies fall when I get that gun working, rolling at speeds over the sands," Frank wrote.

He deployed to the Pacific by transport ship in June, not knowing his destination. Frank's unit sailed to the Solomon Islands. U.S. commanders launched a surprise amphibious landing there on Aug. 7, 1942, placing Marines and sailors ashore under fire on the islands of Tulagi, Gavutu, Tanamabogo and Guadalcanal.

Courtesy of Vicki Zenhulze

Frank, Sanford, Ralph and John Eyde pose in this undated photo.

lago, Gavutu, Tanamabogo and Guadalcanal. Frank's unit was deployed to Tulagi, where hundreds of Japanese soldiers fought to the death on a strip of land about 3 miles long and a half-mile wide.

"High bombers overhead dropping eggs all around us," Frank wrote home in the summer of 1942. "At night a real battle was on. I saw tracers blast from our ships ... heavy fires all around. We can't talk about the losses of the war, so I guess all I can say is we won the battle. It was sure a 4th of July and it happened eight months after the attack on Pearl Harbor."

Frank's unit withdrew from Tulagi relatively quickly, moving to the New Hebrides, a group of tropical islands off the east coast of Australia now known as Vanuatu.

In February 1943 Frank contracted malaria and jaundice, and the Marines sent him home from the South Pacific.

Ralph is wounded

"As long as you know now that it was only a slight head wound + nothing more it's okay by me. It was plenty close but I was never out of the 18 straight days of action nor in any hospital or rest camp. Too many fellows move off than myself at the time so I had it dressed the following day while eating my field ration (was hit the same day I landed - shell landing 15 feet away while pushing ahead). But all this a thousand times over never held up this outfit."

— Ralph Eyde, in a letter written home on Sept. 28, 1943

Ralph wrote John in April 1943 that he was preparing to deploy as part of "one of these outfits who make beach landings in the middle of the night on the roughest coastlines possible and seize airports, railroads, cities, and enemy coast defenses."

It was possible, Ralph wrote, that the division would be sent to "Japan itself," un-

derlining the two words for emphasis.

In April 1943, Ralph left San Francisco on a transport ship, traveling under the Golden Gate Bridge, and then heading north to Alaska. Japanese soldiers had landed unopposed in the Aleutian Islands in June 1942, taking control of the islands of Kiska and Attu and raising fears that they could use them to launch attacks on the continental United States. The invasion was the first on an American territory since the War of 1812.

The Battle of Attu began May 11, 1943, with Ralph's unit landing on muddy shores as part of Operation Landcrab. Over the next three weeks, in frosty, miserable conditions, 15,000 American and Canadian troops battled about 2,300 well-fortified Japanese soldiers. All but about 30 Japanese soldiers fought to the death.

Ralph suffered a head wound from a shell early in the battle but shrugged it off and stayed in the fight. Frostbite and other exposure injuries were common, and the battle did not conclude until the remaining Japanese fighters made a "banzai" charge through American lines that resulted in furious hand-to-hand combat.

"If the people back home ever have any doubts about the fighting caliber of its soldiers, they want to see this outfit in action and I can assure you that all their doubts would be erased," Ralph wrote in a letter home dated Aug. 5, 1943. "It was a rugged struggle, and all the weather in the world couldn't hold us back."

He and four other soldiers from his company of a few hundred received a Purple Heart, which he sent home to Rockford and called a "real honey of a medal."

U.S. accounts of the battle state that 549 Allied troops were killed, 1,148 more were wounded and 1,814 suffered through cold-weather injuries and disease.

Ralph gets wounded again

"When dawn broke and the sun was shining brightly, the dead Japs were piled in lines where our machine guns had been mowing 'em down all night."

— Ralph Eyde, in a spring 1944 letter to Frank

By January 1944, following jungle-warfare training in Hawaii, Ralph was back on the high seas. U.S. commanders sent his division to assault the Marshall Islands, on which the Japanese had several airfields.

Allied forces launched Operation Flintlock on Jan. 31, 1944, with soldiers from the 7th Infantry Division coming ashore on Kwajalein Atoll.

The Army caught the Japanese underprepared, but they still fought fiercely. On Feb. 4, Ralph and his comrades found themselves facing Japanese soldiers who screamed wildly as they made a final, furious charge under cover of darkness.

SEE LETTERS ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

Letters: Frank's mental state deteriorates; Ralph goes on to colorful life

FROM PAGE 4

"Wham! Shell just misses us. Wham! Another right behind us!" Ralph recalled later in a letter to John. "The machine gun let go with a roar, mowing down some Japs several yards away. My machine gun keeps mowing them down all night."

The battle continued until after dawn, when Ralph was hit by a Japanese shell and blown 20 feet out of his foxhole, with shrapnel wounds to the lung. Ralph was dizzy from his concussion and wounds, he wrote, but continued to throw hand grenades.

Ralph's machine-gunner lost an eye, but both men survived. Ralph later boasted to Frank that American soldiers would beat "the tricky and cunning Jap" anytime.

"He's a tough little fanatic, and no one in this outfit underestimated his fighting ability," Ralph wrote. "Lost some of my buddies in this campaign, and their heroic deeds against harassing snipers, pillboxes, and blizzards will never be forgotten."

The Battle of Kwajalein ended with 142 American troops killed, two missing and another 845 wounded. The Japanese lost more than 4,300 men.

"Golly, you sure get your share of battle, don't you?" John wrote on Feb. 11, not knowing that Ralph was wounded and being shipped to Hawaii for treatment.

By then, John was a member of the Army Air Forces and training for a deployment to the Pacific with the 505th Bombardment Group at Wendover Airfield in Utah.

The Eydes learned that Ralph had been "seriously wounded" on Kwajalein in a telegram on Feb. 16 and received a letter from a general confirming the news the following day. Sanford wrote his younger brother immediately.

"It could have been worse, and it was with that thought in mind that I told Mama and Bob not to worry," Sanford wrote, using nicknames the brothers had for their parents. "I said that any guy who can pick other guys off second base like you did one after another was plenty quick moving. Your ability in sports has been to your advantage in your most recent encounter."

A few days later, when he heard Ralph had been wounded, John wrote that he had "bawled like a baby!" — and right in front of everybody!"

John deploys

"Japan hasn't seen 100 of blessings she's going to in the near future."

— John Eyde in a letter home in July 1945

Frank's situation continued to worsen. He was ordered from his base in Indiana to the naval hospital in Charleston, S.C., where he was diagnosed as schizophrenic.



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/National Archives

The first American flag to fly over Attu Island, near Alaska, was erected on this abandoned Japanese landing craft.



Courtesy of defenseimagery.mil

Men of the Army's 7th Infantry Division use flamethrowers to smoke out Japanese soldiers from a blockhouse on Kwajalein Island on Feb. 4, 1944, while others wait with rifles ready in case enemy soldiers come out.

"It is the opinion of this board that this patient is unfit for service; that his condition did not exist prior to enlistment and that he will be a menace to himself and the public safety; and that further hospitalization is indicated," said one hospital document dated March 31, 1944.

Another document dated the same day said he often secluded himself and was prone to "bizarre behavior." He believed others could potentially control his thoughts and recalled seeing a large figure in the sky a few months prior "that could have been God."

As his mental condition worsened, his letters got shorter and shorter, usually touching only on the weather and baseball. He eventually was transferred to St. Elizabeths Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Southeast Washington.

Sanford, meanwhile, was rejected by the military in 1944: Doctors declared him "4F," meaning he was not suited for the service.

Sanford traveled to Washington in June to visit Frank, reporting back to the family in a letter that his brother had gained weight and looked "like his good old self at 190 pounds." By the end of July, Frank was discharged from military service.

John deployed late in the year to an airfield on Tinian, which Allied forces had seized that summer in a weeklong battle. The island, part of the Mariana Islands, was viewed by the United States as a key base from which B-29 Superfortress bombers in John's unit could make an aerial assault against Japan.

"I can't tell you where I am at present due to censorship," John said in his first

letter home. "The plane ride was smooth and quite swift, and I enjoyed the trip immensely. The vegetation on this place is good and most anything will grow, including bananas."

He urged his brothers to savor their status as civilians.

"Maybe by the time you get this, you'll have yourself a good job, how about that?" John wrote. "Also you Frank — should get yourself a good position. I know it's hard to get adjusted to your new civilian life, but you'll soon get used to it! And Sanny, you're quite adjusted already, heh, heh."

John stayed abroad for another eight months, working on the electrical components of airplanes.

Then the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Within days, the war was over.

Postwar

"Thanks for keeping my whereabouts a secret and that is a good way to describe my movements — 'in and out' all the time. Ha, ha."

— Ralph Eyde in a June 1959 letter to Sanford and John

Frank continued to struggle for many years after the war, unable to hold a steady job. In March 1954, John wrote to Ralph that "Frankie boy" was recently freed after serving 20 days in jail.

"We don't worry about him here at all and he doesn't come around here at all — he's over 40 and can live his own life as he sees fit," John wrote. "I've never heard him say he was wrong or apologize to anyone. He's just not all there or extremely a self-worshiper and a stubborn, selfish, liar and bullshitter."

But he outlived John and Sanford and died in 1996 at 83.

John, who opened a window installation business out of his childhood home after the war, fell ill in 1962, dying from a brain tumor at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Madison, Wis. Sanford, who continued to work at Woodward Governor, died in 1971 at age 56.

Ralph's life took more unusual turns. He worked for the government for decades, in a somewhat clandestine fashion, writing his family from everywhere from Africa to Asia, with many years in Europe during the Cold War. When he died in 2003 at age 85, his obituary said he had served in the CIA.

John turns out, the closest surviving family member is Vicki Venhuizen, a second cousin of the Eyde brothers who said she remembers them as young men. None of the brothers married or had children. Venhuizen said that in Ralph's later years, he settled in Rockford and collected the family correspondence, which he stored in plastic bins, along with a collection of vinyl records.

Train service resumes near Aviano Air Base to Sacile, Maniago

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Americans who have been based at Aviano Air Base only in recent years will see something new this winter: the passing of trains through the city.

The service connecting the cities of Sacile to the southwest and Maniago to the northeast resumes after coming to an abrupt halt in 2012. Since then, a bus has been the only form of public transportation, making four trips daily be-

tween the two cities.

The route isn't expected to be heavily trafficked — some might use it for daily commuting — but the service will begin with 11 daily trips in each direction. That's several more than it had before shutting down.

The current schedule calls for the first trains westward arriving at Aviano at 6:08 a.m., with the last trains from Sacile arriving at 7:29 p.m.

Thousands of Americans live within a few miles of the tracks for the route and pass over them on

their daily commutes.

The track separates the two main areas of the base: the flight line and Area 1.

That's led the base to issue a warning for drivers to slow down over the tracks, which until recently had no warning lights or crossing gates.

"We encourage everyone to be aware of these newly active railroad tracks for safety and planning purposes," said Capt. Tom Barger, 31st Fighter Wing spokesman.

Speed limits around the crossings are generally 30 miles per

hour, but local motorists — Italian and American alike — often exceed that speed.

Those based at Aviano could use the local station as a start for long trips. Pordenone, about a 20-minute drive away, is a main train hub, but finding a free or cheap parking spot there can be a challenge. Sacile is a secondary hub, and it will now be possible to get there via train from Aviano and then travel on to the rest of Italy and Europe.

Andrea Carli, Maniago's mayor, said in an email that a key reason

the service is being restarted is to increase tourism.

Several other projects will now go forward, including extending a bicycle path that runs parallel to the reopened route and extending bus service from the reopened stations in Aviano and Maniago to other nearby potential tourist spots.

Carli said a special steam locomotive geared specifically for tourists will run on the weekends starting in April.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Envoy: US looks to offset Iran's clout in post-war Iraq

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As Iraq emerges from three years of war with Islamic State, the U.S. is looking to roll back the influence of neighboring Iran and help the central government resolve its dispute with the Kurdish region, the American envoy to the country told The Associated Press.

U.S. Ambassador Douglas Silliman took up his post in Baghdad in September 2016, just weeks before the start of the operation to retake the northern city of Mosul. With ISIS now driven out of all the territory it once held and Iraq's declaration of the war against the extremists is over, he said Washington is focused on keeping the peace and rebuilding, and sees Iran's influence as a problem.

"Iran simply does not respect the sovereignty of its neighbors," Silliman said. "The Iraqis have — to some extent — assisted the government of Iraq in defeating ISIS," he said. "But, frankly, I have not seen the Iraqis donating money for humanitarian assistance; I have not seen them contributing to the U.N. stabilization program."

Iran gained major influence in Iraq after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led dictatorship and empowered the country's Shiite majority.

majority.

When ISIS swept across northern and central Iraq in the summer of 2014, Iran-backed militias mobilized in the country's defense, providing a bulwark in many areas while the beleaguered armed forces were rebuilt. The now state-sanctioned paramilitaries, known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, consist of tens of thousands of mostly Shiite fighters deployed across the country.

The Trump administration has called for the paramilitary forces to disband after the ISIS fight is complete. It has also vowed to take a much tougher line on Iran, threatening to pull the U.S. out of the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement and levying sanctions on Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard.

Iraq is meanwhile seeking external support for reconstruction after the war, which the government says caused an estimated \$100 billion in damage. Some 3 million Iraqis are still displaced months after fighting ended.

The U.S. is also hoping to help calm tensions between the central government and the northern Kurdish region following a September independence referendum that was rejected by Baghdad. Federal forces clashed with Kurdish fighters in October as Baghdad retook disputed territories that the Kurds had seized from ISIS.

"The relatively modest role we are playing is to help both sides find ways to walk through the door of discussions," Silliman said, explaining that while both sides support "the idea" of discussions, negotiations to end the crisis have not yet begun.



KARIM KADIM/AP

People celebrate as they wave national flags in Baghdad on Sunday. World leaders congratulated Iraq following the prime minister's declaration of victory over Islamic State.

Iraqi Shiite cleric urges fighters to disarm after defeat of ISIS

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An influential Iraqi Shiite cleric on Monday urged his fighters to hand state-issued weapons back to the government following Iraq's declaration of victory against Islamic State.

In a speech broadcast on Iraqi television, Muqtada al-Sadr also called on his forces to hand over some territory to other branches of Iraq's security forces, but said his men would continue to guard a holy Shiite shrine in Samarra, north of Baghdad.

Al-Sadr commands one of several mostly Shiite militias that mobilized after ISIS militants swept across northern and central Iraq in the summer of 2014. The paramilitaries are state-sanctioned and officially under the command of the prime minister but have their own chains of command.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory over ISIS in a national address Saturday

after Iraqi forces drove the militants from their last strongholds in the western desert.

Al-Sadr, the scion of a revered Shiite clerical family, commanded a powerful militia that battled U.S. troops in the years after the 2003 invasion. His fighters are today known as the Peace Brigades and are part of the Popular Mobilization Forces, the official name of the mostly Shiite militias allied with the government.

During his address Monday, al-Sadr warned members of the paramilitary forces against participating in elections scheduled for May.

Tens of thousands of Popular Mobilization Forces are deployed across the country. Many are viewed with suspicion by some of Iraq's minority Sunnis and Kurds.

The paramilitaries clashed with Kurdish fighters in October when federal forces retook disputed territories in northern Iraq that the Kurds had captured from ISIS.

Duterte asks Philippine Congress for martial law extension

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte asked Congress on Monday to extend the martial law he declared in the country's south by one year to ensure the "total eradication" of pro-Islamic State extremists, warning they plan more uprisings after an unsuccessful but disastrous siege of Marawi city.

Duterte said the remaining militants still hope to establish a caliphate in the Philippines and Southeast Asia after government forces killed more than 900 fighters and quelled the five-month Marawi siege in October.

Left-wing and pro-democracy groups have protested Duterte's imposition of martial law because

of human rights concerns, but the Supreme Court has upheld its legality.

In a House to the Senate and the latter to the House of Representatives, Duterte said extending martial law in the southern Mindanao region through the end of 2018 would allow government forces to press offensives against other armed groups, including the Abu Sayyaf and communist guerrillas, who have intensified attacks.

Despite the killing of Isnilon Hapilon, long wanted by the United States and the Philippines, and other leaders of the Marawi attack, "the remnants of their groups have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion," Duterte said in his letter, which

was provided to reporters.

Rep. Edcel Lagman said Congress should reject Duterte's request because there was no more constitutionally outlined ground for martial law after the president declared Marawi has been freed from terrorist influence. Congress, which is dominated by Duterte's allies, approved Duterte's martial law declaration this year. The Senate and House will meet jointly Wednesday to decide.

Duterte's request for a martial law extension amounts to a "patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension," Lagman said.

The Marawi violence displaced about half a million people and turned mosque-studded Marawi's

central business and residential districts into a smoldering war zone.

The uprising that began on May 23 prompted Duterte to declare martial law and reinforced fears that ISIS was taking steps to gain a foothold in Asia and elsewhere as it faced battle setbacks in Syria and Iraq.

Some gunmen and commanders managed to escape during the fighting, the military said.

One of the militants who might replace Hapilon, Esmail Abdulmalik, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Turaira, has been monitored to be planning bombings in the town, Duterte said. An ISIS-linked faction in another militant band, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Group, has intensified roadside bombings and attacks on

troops.

Communist New People's Army guerrillas, meanwhile, have taken advantage of the military's preoccupation with Muslim extremists and increased their attacks on troops and businesses in the south, killing 41 government security personnel and destroying at least \$43 million in property, Duterte said.

The threats continue to make the south a "hotbed of rebellion," he said.

Duterte has called off peace talks with the Maoist rebels to protest their attacks and moved to designate them as terrorists under the law.

He has indicated, however, that he is still open to a resumption of talks if the communist insurgents stop their assaults.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Blogger who chronicled ISIS atrocities reveals identity

By LORI HINNANT
AND MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

He would wander the streets of Mosul by day, chatting with shopkeepers and Islamic State fighters, visiting friends who worked at the hospital, swapping scraps of information. He grew out his hair and his beard and wore the shortened trousers required by the extremists. He forced himself to witness the beheadings and stonings so he could hear killers call out the names of the condemned and their supposed crimes.

By night, anonymously from his darkened room, Mosul Eye told the world what was happening. If caught, he too would be killed.

But after more than three years, his double life has grown too heavy to bear. He misses his name.

His secrets sap energy he'd rather use for his doctoral dissertation and for trying to rebuild. In conversations with The Associated Press, he agonized over how to end the anonymity that plagues him. He made his decision.

Mosul Eye is Omar Mohammed, historian, scholar, blogger. He is 31.

The revelation of his identity is for his thousands of readers and followers, for all his volunteers in Mosul who have been inspired by a man they have never seen. But above all, it is for the brother who died in the final battle and for his grieving mother.

"I can't be anonymous anymore. This is to say that I defeated ISIS. You can see me now, and you can know me now," he told the AP.

Mohammed first posted about ISIS under his own Facebook account in the first few days after its fighters swept into Mosul, but a friend told him he risked being killed. So in those first days he made himself a promise: Trust no one, document everything.

A newly minted teacher with a reputation for secular ideas, he had lost his university job. He found another calling.

"My job as a historian requires an unbiased approach which I am going to adhere to and keep my personal opinion to myself," he wrote on that first day, June 18, 2014.

Mosul Eye became one of the outside world's main sources of news about ISIS fighters, their atrocities and their transformation

of Mosul into a shadow of itself.

During Friday sermons, Mohammed feigned enthusiasm. He collected propaganda to post online later. He drank tea at the hospital, fishing for information.

Much of what he collected went on the blog. Other details he kept in his computer, for fear of giving away his identity. Someday, he promised, he would write history with them.

The most sensitive details initially came from two old friends: a doctor and a high school dropout who had joined an ISIS intelligence unit.

Mohammed's information sometimes included photos of the fighters and commanders, complete with biographies surreptitiously pieced together during the course of his normal life.

He expanded into a Facebook page and a Twitter feed to parcel out information at a time when little news was escaping.

Intelligence agencies made contact as well and he rebuffed them. "I am not a spy or a journalist," he would say. "I tell them this: If you want the information, it's published, and it's public for free. Take it."



AP

After three years anonymously documenting Islamic State atrocities, Omar Mohammed, known as Mosul Eye, has revealed his identity.

He tested out different voices, Christian, Muslim.

Sometimes he indicated he was gone, other times that he was still in the city.

Finally, after leaving Mosul a thousand times in his mind, he decided it was time to get out.

A smuggler agreed to sneak him out for \$1,000. Mohammed left the next day, the contents of his computer transferred to a hard-drive that he packed with him.

No one gave him a second look during the two days and some 300 miles it took to reach Turkey.

Once there, Mosul Eye kept at it via WhatsApp and Viber, from Facebook messages and long conversations with friends and rela-

tives who had contacts within ISIS. From hundreds of miles away, his life remained consumed by events back home.

By mid-2016, deaths were piling up faster than he could record. ISIS was on a hunt for traitors, and the airstrikes were taking an increasing toll on everyone. His records grew haphazard, and he turned to Twitter to document the atrocities. In February 2017, he received asylum in Europe.

Only after his elder brother Ahmed was killed in a mortar strike and ISIS was gone from the city did Mohammed reveal his secret to a younger brother — who greeted the news with shock, pride and happiness.

Putin plans drawdown of Russian military forces from Syria

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin declared victory against "terrorists" in Syria on Monday during a surprise visit to a Russian military base in the country, where he also announced a partial pullout of Russian troops.

It was Putin's first trip to Syria, where Russia launched an air campaign in 2015 that allowed President Bashar Assad's forces to gain the upper hand against Islamic State as well as Syrian rebels. It was also the first visit by a foreign head of state to war-ravaged Syria since the civil war began in 2011.

Putin's brief stop at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's coastal province of Latakia while en route to Egypt came days after the Russian president said he would run for re-election on March 18.

In a televised speech to the Russian troops at the base, Putin hailed their "excellent" performance in Syria, where the Russian military declared victory against ISIS last week.

Russia launched its air campaign in Syria at the end of September 2015, when Assad's government was teetering on the brink of collapse and quickly changed the course of the conflict. Russian officials say the troops were sent to Syria mainly to fight "terrorists," including ISIS and al-Qaida, but they also battled mainstream rebels opposed to the

Assad family's four-decade rule.

Putin has hosted Assad twice in the past six years, including a surprise Nov. 21 visit that Assad undertook to the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Russian television stations showed Putin walking off the plane at the air base, embracing and shaking hands with Assad. The two then visited a military operations room.

The Hemeimeem base, located in the heartland of Assad's Alawite minority, has served as the main foothold for the Russian military campaign in Syria.

Putin said that he had ordered the military to withdraw a "significant part" of the Russian contingent in Syria.

He added, however, that the Russian military will maintain its presence at Hemeimeem and a naval facility in Tartus.

Gen. Sergei Surovkin, the Russian military commander in Syria, said the military will pull out 23 warplanes, two helicopter gunships, special forces units, military police and field engineers.

Surovkin said the remaining forces will be sufficient to "successfully fulfill the tasks" to stabilize the situation in Syria. He did not say how many troops and weapons would stay behind.

Syria has allowed Russia to use Hemeimeem air base indefinitely without cost. Moscow also has a deal with Syria to use the Tartus base for 49 years, which could be extended if both parties agree.

The Russian military plans to modernize the air base and expand its runways to allow it to host more warplanes.

It also intends to expand the Tartus facility significantly to make it a full-scale naval base capable of hosting warships, includ-

ing cruiser-sized vessels.

Syrian TV said Assad thanked Putin for his troops' "effective contribution" to the fight against terrorism in Syria.

Insurgents still control several areas in Syria, but much of the fighting has been caused by "de-

escalation" agreements brokered by Russia and Iran, which support Assad, and Turkey, which backs the rebels.

Putin told Assad he would discuss the prospects for a peace settlement with the leaders of Egypt and Turkey later Monday.

STARS & STRIPES

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NATION

Blast: Attack triggers massive emergency response; suspect treated for burns

FROM FRONT PAGE

Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters. "Thank God the perpetrator did not achieve his ultimate goals."

The suspect, who was identified as Akayed Ullah, 27, was being treated at a hospital for burns to his hands and abdomen. The others who were injured suffered ringing in the ears and headaches.

Law enforcement officials said Ullah was inspired by ISIS but apparently had not had any direct contact with the group. The officials said he lives in Brooklyn and came to the U.S. from Bangladesh about seven years ago. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the blast.

The explosion, which happened in an underground passageway under 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues, triggered a massive emergency response by police and firefighters both above and below ground, tangling subway and bus service at the nearby Port Authority bus terminal.

Everything around Times Square was shut down, halting what ordinarily would have been a bustling rush hour at the "Crossroads of the World."

Authorities said the bomb was a low-tech explosive device attached to the man with Velcro and plastic ties.

They were investigating how it was made.

A photo published by the New York Post showed a bearded man crumpled on the ground with his shirt apparently blown off and black soot covering his bare midriff. A police officer was holding the man's hands behind his back. Another photo shown on cable channel NY1 showed the bearded suspect, wide-eyed, on a stretcher being loaded into an ambulance.

Elrana Peralta, a customer service worker for Greyhound, said she works in the Port Authority terminal complex near where the blast happened but did not hear



ANDRES KUDACKI/AP

Law enforcement officials work following an explosion near New York's Times Square on Monday. Police said a man with a pipe bomb strapped to his body set off the crude device in a passageway under 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues.

the explosion.

"All we could hear was the chaos," she said. "We could hear people yelling, 'Get out! Get out! Get out!'"

John Miles, 28, from Vermont, was waiting for a bus to Massachusetts. He did not hear the blast either, but saw police react.

"I didn't know what was going on. Officers were running around. I was freaking out," he said. There was an announcement that people should take their bags

and leave. "They didn't incite panic. It was fairly orderly."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted that President Donald Trump had been briefed on the explosion. Instead of commenting on the suspected terrorist attack, Trump later sent a tweet at 9:17 a.m. criticizing a Sunday story in The New York Times that said he watched cable news television for at least four hours per day.

The blast came just weeks after eight people died in New York when another man, also said to be inspired by ISIS, drove a rented truck onto a bike path near the World Trade Center.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said at a news conference following the attack that New Yorkers should be alert but go about their lives.

"Let's go back to work," he said. "We're not going to allow them to disrupt us."

Enlist: Move signals sense government likely to lose attempt to delay plan

FROM FRONT PAGE

The requirements make it challenging for a transgender recruit to pass. But they mirror concerns President Barack Obama's administration laid out when the Pentagon initially lifted its ban on transgender servicemembers last year.

The Pentagon has similar restrictions for recruits with a variety of medical or mental conditions, such as bipolar disorder.

"Due to the complexity of this new medical standard, trained medical officers will perform a medical prescreen of transgender applicants for military service who otherwise meet all applicable applicant standards," Eastburn said.

Last year, then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter ended the ban on transgender servicemembers, allowing them to serve openly in the military. He said that within 12 months — or by July 2017 — transgender people also would be able to enlist.

Trump, however, tweeted in July that the federal government "will not accept or allow" transgender troops to serve "in any capacity" in the military. A month later, he issued a formal order telling the Pentagon to extend the ban. He gave the department six months to determine what to do about those currently serving.

Trump's decision was challenged quickly in court, and two U.S. district court judges

already have ruled against the ban. Part of one ruling required the government to allow transgender people to enlist beginning Jan. 1.

The government had asked that the Jan. 1 requirement be put on hold while the appeal proceeds. The Pentagon move Monday signals the growing sense within the government that authorities are likely to lose the legal fight.

"The controversy will not be about whether you allow transgender enlistees; it's going to be on what terms," said Brad Carson, who was deeply involved in the prior administration's decisions. "That's really where the controversy will lie."

Carson worried, however, that the Defense Department could opt to comply with a deadline on allowing transgender recruits, but "under such onerous terms that practically there will be none." Carson, who worked for Carter as the acting undersecretary of defense for personnel, said requiring 18 months of stability in the preferred sex is a reasonable time.

"It doesn't have any basis in science," he said, noting that experts have suggested six months is enough. "But as a compromise among competing interests and perhaps to err on the side of caution, 18 months was what people came around to. And that's a reasonable position and defensible."

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Jack Ryan is dealing with an aggressive challenge from the Chinese government. Pavens are being moved around a global chessboard: an attack on an oil platform in Africa, a terrorist strike on an American destroyer and a storm tossed American spy ship that may fall into Chinese hands. But there are hints that there's even more going on behind the scenes.



NATION

Thousands lack power after storm in South

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Thousands remain without electricity across the Deep South days after a winter snow storm snapped power lines across the region.

At least 24,900 homes and businesses in Georgia were still in the dark Monday according to Georgia Power and Georgia Electric Membership corporation.

Metro Atlanta got several inches of snow Friday and Saturday, while some areas farther north saw up to a foot of snowfall.

Utilities in Mississippi reported at least 2,000 customers were still waiting for power to be restored. Alabama and Louisiana still had roughly 500 outages apiece Monday.

Several school systems closed Monday in Georgia because of a lingering threat of icy road conditions.

The unusually heavy December snowstorm brought flurries to New Orleans and dumped several inches in Mississippi and Alabama.

Wreaths are bound for Arlington

Associated Press

COLUMBIA FALLS, Maine — A convoy loaded with Christmas wreaths has left Down East Maine for a weeklong journey to Arlington National Cemetery, where the wreaths will be placed on tombstones this holiday season.

The Wreaths Across America caravan departed Sunday from Columbia Falls, where the wreaths were made. It's expected to arrive in a week in Arlington, Va.

The grand marshals are Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Roger Donlon and his wife, Norma.

The tradition began when Maine wreath maker Morrill Worcester donated 500 wreaths to Arlington Cemetery. This year, there will be more than 200,000 of them placed at Arlington alone. A total of 1.2 million wreaths will be placed on markers across the country in 1,238 locations.



MIKE ELIASON, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT/AP

Firefighters working on structure protection keep a close eye on nearby flames atop Shepard Mesa Road in Carpinteria, Calif., on Sunday morning. The area has been evacuated by law enforcement, and the fire department has moved in to protect homes in Carpinteria.

Seaside towns protected as wildfires rage

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters kept a wall of flames from descending mountains into coastal neighborhoods after a huge and destructive Southern California wildfire exploded in size, becoming the fifth-largest in state history.

Tens of thousands remained under evacuation orders Monday as the fire churned west through foothill areas of Carpinteria and Montecito, seaside Santa Barbara County towns about 75 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Much of the fire's rapid new growth occurred on the eastern and northern fronts into unoccupied areas of Los Padres National Forest, where the state's fourth-largest fire burned a decade ago.

The blaze, which had already destroyed more than 750 buildings, gutted six more in Carpinteria on Sunday, officials said. It's just 15 percent contained after charring nearly 360 square miles of dry brush and timber.

"We're still anxious. I'm not frightened yet," Carpinteria resident Roberta Lehtinen told KABC-TV. "I don't think it's going to come roaring down unless the winds kick up."

Forecasters predicted that dry winds that fanned several fires across the region for a week would begin to lose their power Monday. Light gusts were pushing around, driving the flames back up hillsides and away from communities, Santa Barbara County Fire spokesman Mike Eliason said. But the possibility

Surfers seek escape in Ventura's waves

BY NOAH SMITH
Special To The Washington Post

VENTURA, Calif. — Trucks ferrying exhausted firefighters rolled into the fairgrounds here straight from the front lines of the Thomas Fire, which was burning right to the edge of Ventura.

Just across the street from the epicenter of the firefighting and evacuation efforts of this massive wildfire, surfers navigated the waves of one of the top breaks in California, C Street.

Daniel Ohlinger, 20, had the break to himself during a midafternoon session Friday, cruising on a 9-foot-8 orange longboard. Days earlier, he was battling the fire, trying to save his family's house about 10 miles away.

"They told us to evacuate, but there just weren't enough firefighters," he said.

Ohlinger, who works on a ship at Naval Base Ventura County during the night shift, woke up a colleague to take over his watch and settled home when he learned that his house might be threatened. He took up a hose with his father, who had been watering the house and yard for hours.

of "unpredictable" gusts would keep firefighters on edge for days, he said.

Santa Ana winds have long contributed to some of the region's most disastrous wildfires. They blow from the inland toward the Pacific Ocean, speeding up as they squeeze through mountain passes and canyons.

With the air thick with acrid smoke, even residents of areas not under evacuation orders took the opportunity to leave, fearing another shutdown of U.S. 101, a key coastal highway that was closed intermittently last week. Officials

"We just did everything we could; we just drenched everything," he said.

The flames came right up to his home, but he and his family held their ground. And they won.

After Ohlinger fought the fire — following three straight weeks of working 12-hour shifts — he headed right to the surf.

"This was my first day off, so I wanted to make sure I got out," he said. "It's good for the soul. I've thought about it a lot, but can't really put it into words."

Firefighters congregated on the rocks overlooking the break, relaxing, joking and having fun in between duty on the fire line. The ocean had become an escape for them as well.

Later in the afternoon, Deena Pace walked up the beach carrying a longboard, her husband and daughter at her sides.

"Surfing is probably the thing that brings us most together," she said. "It brings out the best in all of us. Some people cook together, some people bike together; this is the thing that brings us together the most."

handed out masks to residents who stayed behind in Montecito, the wealthy hillside enclave that's home to celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Jeff Bridges and Drew Barrymore.

Meanwhile, containment increased on other major blazes in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties. Resources from those fires were diverted to the Santa Barbara foothills to combat the stubborn and enormous fire that started Dec. 4.

Fires are not typical in Southern California this time of year but can break out when dry veg-

etation and too little rain combine with the Santa Ana winds. Though the state emerged this past spring from a yearslong drought, hardly any measurable rain has fallen in the region over the past six months.

"This is the new normal," Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown warned Saturday after surveying damage from the deadly Ventura fire.

Brown and experts said climate change is making wildfires a year-round threat.

High fire risk is expected to last into January.



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NATION

Lesson learned

After the Sandy Hook shooting, districts bolster security at elementary schools

By MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

The setting could not be more different, but David Wannagot says he applies some of the same skills from his 30-year police career to his new role as a school sentry.

As he greeted children getting off the bus at West Elementary School one recent morning, he scanned their faces, ready to guide any who seem upset directly to the vice principal. And from his station at the entrance, he sizes up all visitors asking to enter the building.

"We would do anything we can to protect a child or a teacher," said Wannagot, a former detective in Norwalk, Conn. "We're not armed, but we do have experience dealing with violent people in the past, reading people's mannerisms, that kind of thing."

In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn., five years ago, districts have moved to bolster security, especially at elementary schools, which traditionally have not had police assigned to them like many high schools and middle schools. Many have hired retired officers, firefighters and other responsible adults — an approach that's less expensive and potentially less intrusive than assigning sworn police but one that also has raised questions about the consistency of training and standards.

Nationally, there is a patchwork of state laws addressing requirements for school safety officers, and many leave it entirely up to local school boards. Some states, including Connecticut, have weighed legislation to impose standards for nonpolice security inside schools.

In Danbury, Conn., which began posting security guards inside elementary schools after the Sandy Hook shooting, Mayor Mark Boughton pushed for state legislation that would have established standards and training for nonpolice security personnel. The bill ultimately did not pass. In the event of a crisis involving a response by multiple agencies, he said, it would be helpful to have common agreement on the role of private guards.

"I still think it's a good idea," Boughton said.

'Our lenses changed'

Even before the shooting, security officers were once almost exclusively at high schools before becoming common at middle schools also had been turning up increasingly at elementary schools, according to Ronald Stephens, director of the National School Safety Center.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the percentage of primary U.S. public schools with one or more security staffers present at least once a week rose slightly from 26.2 percent in the 2005-06 school year to 28.6 percent in 2013-14.

In New Canaan, the school district contracted with a private company to set up the campus monitors soon after the Newtown school shooting on Dec. 14, 2012.

"Our lenses changed a bit on that day," Superintendent Bryan Luizzi said.

The plan for the monitors initially ran into skepticism from some, including Steve Karl, a town councilor who questioned the cost and the intrusiveness, but he has come

around to support the program. The monitors now report to the board of education, which also provides training.

The monitors earn an average salary of \$30,700, compared with \$90,472 for police assigned as school resource officers.

"The first choice would be to have a U.S. Marine at the door. 'This is the guy you're going to have to check through to get access to our kids.' But it's just not realistic," Karl said. "Where do you go from there? You want somebody who has a very keen sense of knowing when something doesn't quite feel right."

The rise in the number of districts turning to private security has led to calls elsewhere to impose standards for school guards, particularly in cases where school boards allow for them to be armed.

In New Jersey, a law passed last year establishes a special class of law enforcement officers providing school security. The measure was sought by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police to encourage minimum training standards, according to the association's president, North Plainfield Police Chief William Parenti. Chiefs, he said, noticed fewer police officers were being assigned to schools because of budget cuts, and districts were replacing them with private security, including armed guards.

"You could get a school superintendent's brother who didn't have a job and give them a permit to carry," he said.

In Arkansas, a law passed in 2015 sets minimum training requirements on topics including active-shooter training and limitations on the authority of school security officers, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Ideal scenario

Michele Gay, whose own daughter was killed at Sandy Hook and who now works with school districts as a security advocate, said the ideal scenario would be to have an officer in every school, playing an all-purpose role similar to a school nurse. Where that's not possible, she said the guards should at least be former police.

"We want everybody to be on the same page and have the same level of experience," she said.

At New Canaan's West Elementary, the guard greets students at the bus before making rounds to make sure doors and windows are locked. He monitors video feeds to watch people approaching the school and checks visitors' identification. On occasion, the principal asks him to keep an eye out for parents who may be upset about something.

A New Canaan police officer also comes by the school periodically and talks with students as part of a new program to build relationships with school staff.

"We try to be as friendly as possible for the kids to be comfortable around us," said Hector Garcia, a monitor assigned to West Elementary. The former prison guard, known as "Mr. Hector" to students, keeps a collection of matchbox cars at his station to help put children at ease.

Annie Drapkin, a West Elementary parent, said the guards helped to put everyone at ease after the Newtown shooting and, over time, they have become part of the school community.

"They're lovely people, and underneath it, they are strong," she said.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MELIA/AP

Campus monitor Hector Garcia greets students Wednesday as they got off the bus at the start of the school day at West Elementary School in New Canaan, Conn.



NATION

Deadline looming for health care law sign-ups

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration came into office looking to dismantle former President Barack Obama's health care law, but the Affordable Care Act survived. Now the administration is on the hook to deliver a smooth ending to sign-up season, with a crush of customers expected this week.

For millions of eligible consumers time runs out on Friday.

Dec. 15 is the last day to enroll in subsidized private coverage in 39 states served by the federal HealthCare.gov website. Consumer interest has remained brisk, even as the Trump administration cut the sign-up season in half, reducing it from roughly 90 days to 45 days.

"It's more likely than ever that they're going to run into real volume problems in the last week because that's when everybody is going to show up," said Tim Jost, a legal analyst who closely follows the workings of the ACA.

Heavy traffic could slow the website and could lead to long hold times at the federal call center. For the vast majority, this is the last opportunity to secure coverage for 2018, or switch from an existing plan. One exception: People living in hurricane-affected areas can get an extension to sign up by Dec. 31 by contacting the HealthCare.gov call center. That could make a difference in states such as Texas and Florida.

Enrollment fluctuates in the course of the year, but it's estimated that 9 million to 10 million people currently have coverage through the ACA's marketplaces. The markets cater to people who don't have access to a job-based plan, and participation is expected to dip somewhat next year.

In a twist, many people eligible for financial help actually could be able to pay lower premiums in 2018. Although list price premiums for the most popular plans went up sharply, so did taxpayer-provided subsidies that limit how much individuals actually have to pay. In many communities, barebones "bronze" plans are available for no monthly premium for those eligible for subsidies.

Some businesses have been free of problems up to now, insurers say. Scheduled early Sunday maintenance shutdowns have not been a disruption.

Nonetheless, administration officials at the Health and Human Services department are saying little about their contingency plans for the final week. That's a contrast from the Obama years.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which also administers the ACA, did say that the deadline hour will remain the same this year — midnight Pacific time. That means consumers of the East Coast will have until 3 a.m. Saturday to enroll.



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Democratic senatorial candidate Doug Jones, center, speaks Sunday during a campaign rally alongside Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., right, and Rep. Terri Sewell, left, in Birmingham, Ala.

Alabama Senate race nears end with state at historic 'crossroads'

BY BILL BARROW
AND KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Alabama Democrats see Tuesday's special Senate election as a chance to renounce a history littered with politicians whose race-baiting, bombast and other baggage have long soured the state's reputation beyond its borders.

Many Republicans see the vote as a chance to ratify their conservative values and to protect President Donald Trump's agenda ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

At the center are Republican Roy Moore, a former jurist removed as state chief justice and now accused of sexual misconduct with teenage girls decades ago, and Democrat Doug Jones, an erstwhile federal prosecutor best known for prosecuting two Ku Klux Klansmen responsible for killing four black girls in the 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church.

The winner will take the seat held previously by Trump's attorney general, Jeff Sessions. Republicans control the Senate with 52 seats.

In truth, the matchup mixes both Alabama's tortured history and the nation's current divide, bitterly partisan politics, and it has made a spectacle of a Deep South state well-acquainted with national scrutiny but not accustomed to competitive general elections.

"This is an election to tell the whole world what we stand for," Jones told supporters at one stop Sunday, adding that his campaign "is on the right side of history." At an earlier appearance, he declared Alabama is "at a crossroads" and that Moore, an unapologetic evangelical populist, tries only to "create conflict and division."

Jones, 63, stops short of explic-

itly comparing Moore to the four-term Gov. George Wallace, whose populism was rooted in segregation. But Jones alluded Sunday to that era of Alabama politics.

"Elect a responsible man to a responsible office," Jones said, repeating the campaign slogan of another Alabama governor, Albert Brewer, who nearly defeated Wallace in 1970 in a contest Alabama liberals and many moderates still lament as a lost opportunity.

Some of Jones' supporters put it even more bluntly. "I thought Alabama's image was pretty much at the bottom," said Pat Lawrence, a retired software engineer in Huntsville. A Moore win, Lawrence added, "will be a whole new bottom."

Those concerns extend even to some GOP quarters. Alabama's senior senator, Richard Shelby, confirmed Sunday that he did not vote for Moore, saying he wrote in another "distinguished" party figure he declined to name. Yet for many Republicans, Moore is a paragon of traditional values. They reject accusations that he molested two teenage girls and pursued relationships with others decades ago. Moore denies the charges.

"Everyone has to vote their convictions," said Kevin Mims of Montgomery, as he held his Bible outside his Baptist church Sunday in Montgomery. "My conviction is he's the right man for the job."

Where Moore's critics see a state judge who defied federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage, Mims sees a stalwart who stands "on the word of God." Other conservatives see an anti-establishment firebrand in the mold of Trump, who won Alabama by 28 percentage points.

Moore encourages that view with fundraising emails that urge backers to help him "defeat the elite," a swipe at both Democrats and the establishment Republicans who tried to deny him the GOP nomination earlier this year.

Precision falters as GOP strains to speed tax bill

BY ERICA WERNER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Republicans are moving their tax bill toward final passage at stunning speed, blowing past Democrats before they've had time to fully mobilize against it but leaving the measure vulnerable to the type of expensive problems already popping up in their massive and complex plan.

Questionable special-interest provisions have been stuffed in along the way, out of public view and in some cases literally in the dead of night. Drafting errors by exhausted staff are cropping up in need of fixes, which must be tackled by congressional negotiators working to reconcile competing versions of the legislation passed separately by the House and the Senate.

And the melding process underway has opened the door to another frenzy of 11th-hour lobbying as special interests, including President Donald Trump's rich friends, make one last dash for cash before the final bill speeds through both chambers of Congress and onto Trump's desk. Passage is expected the week before Christmas.

Veterans of congressional tax overhauls, particularly the seminal revamp under President Ronald Reagan in 1986, have been stunned and in some cases outraged at how swiftly Republicans are moving on legislation that touches every corner of the economy and all Americans. Although GOP leaders make no apologies, some in their rank and file say that the process would have benefited from a more deliberate, open approach.

"I think it would have looked better if we had taken more time and had more transparency, had more open committee hearings," said freshman Rep. James Comer, R-Ky. "Having said that, the goal that everybody had was to reduce the tax rates.... So at the end of the day, the goal is going to be achieved, but we could have done it in a more transparent manner that probably would have given the voters that are being polled a little more confidence," Comer said, referring to the effort's poor showing in opinion surveys.

It has been just more than a month since the \$1.5 trillion legislation was introduced in the House, and in that short time it has cleared the two key committees in the House and the Senate and has won approval on the floors of both chambers, all without a single Democratic vote. If Trump signs the bill as planned before Christmas, that would

mean a journey of less than two months between introduction and final passage.

The specific legislation that probably will become law, sold as a middle-class tax cut but featuring a massive corporate rate reduction at its center, is moving from release toward passage without any hearings, unusual for a bill of such magnitude. And as it tumbled along it picked up some startling new features, to the surprise of affected industries, Democrats and, in some cases, Republicans.

Some of the most notable changes came in the hours preceding the Senate's passage of its version of the bill, which happened about 1:50 a.m. Dec. 2.

The final vote was preceded by hours of inaction as Republicans fine-tuned their legislation behind closed doors while funding Democratic staffers ate Chinese food and pored over versions of the bill and lists of amendments that had been leaked by lobbyists on K Street before Republicans had made anything public.

As they got additional drafts of the bill, Democrats were incensed at some of what they found, including new breaks for the oil and gas industry, and a provision that appeared aimed specifically at helping Hillsdale College, a small liberal arts college in Michigan that doesn't accept federal funding and has a large endowment funded by wealthy conservatives including the family of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

An angry Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., stood on the Senate floor to declare that "the federal treasury is being looted." In their own victory of the debate, Democrats offered an amendment to strike the Hillsdale provision, and with the help of four Republicans it passed.

Democrats weren't the only ones surprised by what was in the bill. Republicans and the business community were stunned when the final Senate version restored the alternative minimum tax for corporations. The tax, aimed at keeping companies from shirking their tax duties entirely, had been repealed in the House bill and earlier versions of the Senate measure.

Restoring the corporate alternative minimum tax created \$40 billion in revenue for the bill, which helped Republicans come in under complex budgetary guidelines saying the legislation can't go over the \$1.5 trillion the GOP has agreed to add to the deficit over the next decade. Still, some Republicans professed not to know how the change had come about.

NATION

Serial killer suggests he claimed more victims

By CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
The Washington Post

With six wires penned to his local newspaper, serial killer Todd Kohlhepp gave voice to the fears of investigators and anyone else worried that a missing loved one had become a victim of South Carolina's infamous murderer:

"Yes there is more than seven."

The sentence was a chilling part of a prison letter Kohlhepp wrote the Spartanburg Herald-Journal last week — more than a year after a woman who had been summoned to Kohlhepp's property to clean was found chained by the neck inside a large storage container.

The investigation led authorities to identify several other victims. Three had also been taken to the property under cleaning job pretenses. Their bodies were buried in shallow graves. Another four were victims

of a quadruple murder that hadn't been solved in 13 years.

In May, Kohlhepp pleaded guilty to avoid the death penalty and was sentenced to seven lifetimes in prison, plus 60 years.

But he apparently wants people to know — or at least wonder — about other possible victims.

"I tried to tell investigators and I did tell FBI, but it was blown off," he continued in his letter to the Herald-Journal. "It's not an addition problem, it's (a) multiplication problem. Leaves the state and leaves the country. Thank you private pilot's license."

It's plausible that there could be more murder victims. Some of Kohlhepp's previous murders had been unsolved for more than a decade.

Kohlhepp was a well-groomed and tech-savvy real estate agent who gave no outward signs of the murderous secrets he was keeping. But to those privy to his true self,

he was rather chatty.

Kala Brown, the woman found in the storage container, told the "Dr. Phil" show that Kohlhepp would tell her he was "nearing the triple digits" in killings.

As The Washington Post's Amy Wang reported, Kohlhepp recounted in detail killing four people at a South Carolina motorcycle shop, which had come to be known as the "Superbike" murders.

"All of a sudden, I had three people in front of me. ... Mom was the closest. ... And I shot her two, three times in the chest. Not my best work. ... She fell. The son and the manager, he ... ran for the door, took off. ... At that range, they should have run to me, not away."

"... That was one big building. I cleared that building in under 30 seconds," Kohlhepp told investigators. "I'm sorry, but you guys would have been proud."

More than a decade later, Kohlhepp hired

Brown and her boyfriend, Charles "David" Carver, to do some cleaning work at the property he owned in Woodruff. She told "Dr. Phil" that they had previously cleaned houses for Kohlhepp and never thought they were in danger as they drove to Woodruff.

But Kohlhepp killed Carver and kidnapped Brown. Investigators tracked them down by tracing their cellphones.

Dramatic video released by investigators showed them sawing through a lock on the shed where Brown was hidden. She spewed out details about her captor and the other crimes he'd revealed to her.

Carver's body and two others were found on the property. Kohlhepp also confessed to the motorcycle shop murders in Chesnee.

Anderson Police Department Capt. Mike Walters told the Herald-Journal he doesn't believe Kohlhepp is connected to any open local cases but that there could be more victims in states where Kohlhepp spent time.

Focus of Hudson River cleanup shifts to shore

By MARY ESCH
Associated Press

SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y. — As General Electric seeks to close the books on a \$1.7 billion cleanup of the upper Hudson River, a new fight is simmering over the company's legacy of toxic pollution in the region.

The time, the focus is not on if the fish are safe to eat, but if children are safe playing in riverside parks and backyards that are prone to flooding. Boston-based GE has agreed to spend \$20 million testing soil in the river's flood plain along the 40-mile-long stretch of river where it completed dredging 2.75 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment in 2015.

But it hasn't agreed to remove soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, which are suspected of causing cancer and other health problems. That will require an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency.

An actual cleanup project in flood plain areas is at least five years away after soil testing now underway is completed, followed by a human health impact study and designing of a cleanup plan.

In the village of Schuylerville, site of key events in the Revolutionary War, the protracted process of dredging a flood plain cleanup plan doesn't sit well with residents and officials who have been trying for years to get state or federal agencies to remove contaminated sediment from an old section of the Champlain Canal that connects to the river.

Schuylerville Mayor Dan Carpenter and residents want the EPA to order GE to clean up the canal now. Julie Stokes, who represents the local chamber of commerce on the EPA's Community Advisory Group for the Hudson River Superfund cleanup project, said there's a window of opportunity to do that in the next few weeks.

The EPA is completing its second five-year review of the Hudson River dredging and may soon act on GE's request that the agency formally declare the project

complete.

"Our position is, don't close the books on that until you fix this problem," said Dave Roberts, a retired contractor in Schuylerville who's helping create a heritage tourism center beside the canal.

The banks of the mile-long ribbon of water in the heart of the village sometimes overflow during thunderstorms and flood adjacent properties, including nearby Fort Hardy Park. Residents fear floodwaters will breach a dike and carry contaminated silt that has accumulated so deep that the canal is a cattail-filled swamp in some places.

Fort Hardy Park is not only a popular recreation area but also a significant historic site. It's where Gen. John Burgoyne's defeated British troops lay down their arms in surrender in 1777, giving the Americans their first major victory.

GE invested \$1.7 billion in the river dredging project, which the EPA has said has met its goals. The state Department of Environmental Conservation and environmental groups disagree with the EPA and say too much PCB-contaminated sediment remains in the river.

In the flood plain phase of the cleanup, GE has analyzed more than 7,000 samples from 3,000 locations so far, company spokeswoman Mark Behan said. About 80 percent of samples showed no PCBs or very low levels.

The highest high PCB levels that are used by the public, GE has done about 60 urgent projects including covering contaminated areas at a park and a kayak launch with rocks and sand.

After DEC's tests over the summer showed elevated PCB levels in the old canal, the agency requested that the EPA do further sampling to determine if such an emergency action is needed to protect people who use the park.

An EPA spokeswoman said GE took samples from the old canal and is less susceptible to flooding but results aren't available yet.



JACOB SCOTT, (KANSAS CITY, Mo.) DAILY JOURNAL/AP

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens crawls under an obstacle on April 22 during the SMO SWAT Challenge.

Physical feats touted by Mo. governor

By SUMNER BALLETINE
AND MARGARET STAFFORD
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Rappelling into a bull-riding rodeo event, crawling through dirt on a SWAT obstacle course and entering a burning building with firefighters.

These could be action movie stunts.

But they were all done by a governor earning a reputation for public displays of physical prowess — Eric Greitens, of Missouri.

Greitens, 43, the nation's second-youngest state executive, revels in the attention, posting videos of his action adventures on Facebook and even using them to help stay fit while keeping a demanding schedule.

In one feat of strength, Greitens visited an indoor rock-climbing business and easily scaled two walls as media cameras rolled. Greitens was at the veteran-owned business to announce an initiative to eliminate all start-up business fees for veterans in Missouri.

Other exploits include leading runs with military members, climbing 110 flights of stairs in memory of 9/11, and riding in

a Missouri Highway Patrol car above a high-speed obstacle course.

A novice to politics, Greitens has experience in real fights. He was a boxer in college and has a black belt in Taekwondo. A former Navy SEAL officer, he was once chlorine-gassed in a suicide bomb attack in Iraq. He returned to service three days later.

Greitens was elected in 2016 with no prior experience in office public office. He typically wakes up between 5 and 6 a.m. to run on local trails or do strength training at the Missouri State Highway Patrol gym, spokesman Parker Briden said. Shooting the photos and videos of the governor does not require a fulltime staffer and there is no cost to the state of Missouri, Briden said.

Greitens is not the first elected official with a reputation for fitness. House Speaker Paul Ryan is a fan of P90X workouts. And seven-time Mr. Olympia — former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — went every year to a bodybuilding competition.

But Missouri State University communications expert Elizabeth Dudash-Buskirk said

Greitens' use of social media to highlight his physical exploits is "unprecedented."

"He wants to be that picture that you think of when you think of a strong government, when you think of a strong military (and) when you think of a strong police force," she said.

Dudash-Buskirk said Greitens' self-branding as a veteran might also signal higher political aspirations.

The governor has gotten generally good reviews on Facebook for the stunts. In response to a video of Greitens rappelling into the bull-riding event, one user commented that "Missouri now officially has the coolest governor."

Springfield resident Conor Bruner, who voted for Greitens, said the videos show Greitens "being a man."

"They're all pencil pushers," said Bruner, referring to other elected officials. "He sort of changed the game."

There are skeptics, too. Sharon Swon, of Mexico, Mo., asked why Greitens keeps trying to prove how "macho" he is.

"So he can do pushups," Swon said. "I'm not impressed."

WORLD

Anti-corruption agency faces strong resistance in Ukraine

By YURAS KARMANAU

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — An anti-corruption agency established in Ukraine two years ago was expected to be the driving force that would uproot the endemic graft that depleted the nation's resources and worried its Western allies.

But the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine instead has come under fire from allies of President Petro Poroshenko who are trying to curtail its operations and authority.

NABU chief Artem Sytnik told The Associated Press in an interview that fear is behind the recent attempts by political and business elites to weaken the agency that was supposed to be a visible symbol of reform in Ukraine.

Last month, the Security Ser-

vice of Ukraine and the prosecutor general's office derailed a sting operation by undercover NABU agents to catch a State Migration Service official suspected of issuing passports and residence permits for bribes. The agencies accused NABU of illegal eavesdropping and released the names of its agents, blowing their covers.

Poroshenko's faction and its allies in parliament also have submitted a bill that would allow lawmakers to fire the anti-corruption agency's director with a simple majority vote. Under current law, NABU's chief can be fired only for a criminal conviction, a provision that was intended to ensure independence.

Since its creation in 2015, NABU has investigated 461 cases involving business executives,

government officials and judges accused of involvement in corrupt schemes.

Sytnik thinks the current campaign against his agency results from a probe that targeted the son of Interior Minister Arsen Avakov for alleged involvement in a scheme to embezzle about \$520,000 allocated for purchasing police racks.

Avakov has insisted his son was innocent and accused NABU of falling under political influence.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde expressed concern about the recent developments "that could roll back progress that has been made in setting up independent institutions to tackle high-level corruption, including the National Anti-Corruption Bureau."



OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI/AP

Artem Sytnik, head of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, said fear is behind attempts to weaken his agency.

She urged the Ukrainian government and parliament to safeguard NABU's independence and to move quickly to set up an independent anti-corruption court "to credibly adjudicate high-level corruption cases."

The IMF made the establishment of a court where corruption cases could be prosecuted a condition for releasing further installments of a \$17.5 billion aid package as Ukraine grapples with the separatist conflict in the east.

American man escapes from prison on Bali

BALI, Indonesia — Indonesian police are hunting for an American citizen who escaped Monday from an overcrowded and understaffed prison on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

The head of Kerobokan prison, Tony Nainggolan, said Christian Beasley, 32, is believed to have escaped through a ceiling and then jumped over a 20-foot-high wall.

Beasley was arrested in August at a post office in the Kuta tourist area of Bali with a package containing 57 grams of hashish.

Nainggolan said another American inmate, Paul Anthony Hoffman, 57, was captured while trying to escape.

Saudi Arabia to end ban on movie theaters

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia announced on Monday it will allow movie theaters to open in the conservative kingdom next year for the first time in more than 35 years.

The Saudi reversal in a country where movie theaters were shut down in the 1980s during a wave of ultraconservatism. Many of Saudi Arabia's clerics view Western movies and Arabic films made in Egypt and Lebanon as sinful.

According to Monday's announcement, a resolution, was passed paving the way for licenses to be granted to commercial movie theaters, with the first cinemas expected to open in March 2018.

Many Saudis took to Twitter to express their joy at the news.

Smoke alarm causes scare in Alpine tunnel

BERLIN — A fire alarm inside a railway tunnel being built under the Austrian Alps prompted workers briefly to take shelter in an underground safety area Monday, a project manager said.

Eighteen people were working on a tunnel-boring machine inside the Brenner tunnel construction site when the alarm went off, said Konrad Bergmeister, the Austrian CEO of project management company BBT SE.

He said a smoke sensor set off the alarm, but workers quickly determined there was no fire or smoke.

Catalan protesters oppose return of art

LLEIDA, Spain — Clashes have erupted between police and protesters in Spain's northeastern Catalan city of Lleida after a judicial ruling ordered the city's museum to return 14 pieces of religious art to the neighboring region's government of Aragon.

Regional police cordoned off the area around Lleida Museum early Monday as technicians prepared to remove the disputed artwork.

Hundreds of people protested the transfer, and there were brief scuffles as officers tried to move them away from the museum.

An Aragon provincial court had given until Monday for the museum to hand over the art, which was ordered returned in the region's Sjiena monastery — following a 2015 court ruling.

From The Associated Press

Israel urges EU to back US peace initiative

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged the European Union on Monday to back a new U.S. peace initiative in the Middle East after President Donald Trump's unilateral decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital met with widespread condemnation and triggered clashes in the Palestinian territories.

Netanyahu, on a first official visit to the EU by an Israeli premier in 22 years, told reporters in Brussels that recognizing Jerusalem was merely stating the reality on the ground. He said he expected many European countries to follow Trump's lead in the future.

But European officials say they have heard no details about the U.S. plan to relocate the moribund Mideast peace efforts.

"We should give peace a chance. I think we should see what is present and see if we can advance this peace," Netanyahu said, before a meeting with EU foreign ministers, chaired by the bloc's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini.



VIRGINIA MAYER/AP

Federica Mogherini, the European Union's foreign policy chief, shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after a press conference in Brussels on Monday.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the Europeans are impatient to hear details of any

new U.S. peace move. None was forthcoming when Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was in Brus-

sels last week.

"They've announced to us some kind of American initiative. We've been waiting for several months. If it's not the case, then perhaps the European Union should take the initiative, but it's too early to say," Le Drian said.

"Everyone knows that the resolution of the Middle East crisis goes through negotiations and the recognition of two states," he said. "Jerusalem" could be the capital of Israel and a future Palestinian state, but that has to be negotiated between the two parties," said Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders.

Reynders said that, as the biggest aid donor to the Palestinians and a major partner of Israel, the EU has "a particular role to play" in the dispute.

Netanyahu insisted that "what President Trump has done is put facts squarely on the table. Peace is based on reality."

"Jerusalem is Israel's capital, no one can deny it. It doesn't obviate peace; it makes peace possible," he said, adding that he believed most European countries will "move their embassies to Jerusalem and recognize it as Israel's capital."

British prime minister sees new optimism in Brexit talks

By DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May is stressing her optimism about negotiations over Britain's departure from the European Union, insisting that a preliminary deal has given fresh impetus to the talks.

May met with her Cabinet on Monday morning before a scheduled address to the House of Commons, where she will update lawmakers on the agreement reached Friday that covers questions about citizens' rights, Britain's financial obligations and the Irish border. Leaders of the other 27 EU members are expected to

ratify the agreement later this week, allowing Brexit talks to move on to trade and security cooperation.

"Of course, nothing is agreed until everything is agreed," May said in a statement. "But there is, I believe, a new sense of optimism now in the talks and I fully hope and expect that we will confirm the arrangements I have set out today in the European Council later this week."

But weekend comments by the official in charge of the talks have threatened to spoil May's triumphant moment. In an interview with the BBC on Sunday, Brexit chief David Davis suggested that last week's agreement

was a "statement of intent" that wasn't legally binding.

The comments caused unease in Ireland, where leaders demanded provisions in the agreement to ensure Brexit won't restrict travel and trade between the Republic of Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland. Officials in both parts of the island say the border must remain open to protect the Irish peace process.

The Irish government branded Davis' comments "bizarre" and insisted that Britain must live up to the commitments it made last week.

Davis on Monday tried to mitigate the fallout, insisting his words had been "completely twisted."

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OPINION Military tie-in boxed NFL into a corner

By JESSE BERRETT
Special To The Washington Post

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, conservative firebrand Tomi Lahren tweeted a photograph of American soldiers wading ashore on D-Day. Photographed lurking behind them, rather than charging the beach, was former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick. "Food for thought," Lahren commented, as if merely mulling the disjunction between these images.

One of the many unexamined assumptions encoded in Lahren's tweet is that professional football ought to reflect America at its most patriotic, even embracing jingoism. Your typical player, we're prodded to infer, should hop out alongside the other grunts by standing for the national anthem and playing the game — an act that Lahren, in a familiar rhetorical slippage, equates with going to war.

However clumsy, Lahren's vision of where the NFL should stand politically is nothing new. In fact, the league itself cultivated this expectation throughout its rise to the top of the American sporting world in the 1920s. It arranged half-price military flyovers and released classic NFL Films productions in which "voice of God" announcer John Facenda growled "search and destroy" as linebackers flattened hapless quarterbacks.

But this marketing obscured reality. Football players fought in World War II, but only because the NFL lacked the cultural authority to limit their contribution to the war effort. By Vietnam, even as it was pounding the drums of patriotism, the NFL exerted soft power to shield its players from the draft, instead dispatching them on tours that inadvertently widened the distance between celebrity football players and the values the league claimed to be promoting.

During World War II, it was baseball, not football, that earned special dispensation from war. A month after Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed league commissioner Keweenaw Mountain Landis to keep baseball going. Professional baseball players, he argued, "are a definite recreational asset to at least 20 million of their fellow citizens." Professional football players were different. Roosevelt later told a congressional committee that "the college football should be encouraged in times like this" but that the NFL did not merit mention as a "recreational asset."

As a result, some 638 professional football players served (many, admittedly, as stars of service teams). In the spring of 1945, several NFL owners who were among their ranks told players who were deemed unacceptable for military service. The league nearly shut down every season through 1945.

By the mid-1960s, however, professional football had made itself the establishment's favorite sport. NFL owners cultivated friends in high places. Washington was a male town, and football is its game," journalist Hedrick Smith wrote. "Not to possess Redskins season tickets spells a fatal absence of status," observed the astute columnist Mary McGarry.

As Vietnam draft picked up, the perks of coziness with power became evident. In late 1966, Life magazine acidly noted the NFL's "magical immunity" to Vietnam War call-ups: 27 percent of those classified 1-A (available for unrestricted military duty) between the ages of 18 and 35 were drafted, yet somehow only two NFL players out of 960 got the call. Thanks to arrangements with obliging local officials (lubricated by the league's glamour), teams had stashed draft-eligible men in National Guard and Reserve units, despite a 100,000-man waiting list for Guard postings in 1968 — "such a dodge," one critic wrote, "that if there had been a call-up,



PHILAN M. EEBENHACK/AP

Seattle Seahawks players kneel during the national anthem before their game against the Jaguars on Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla.

there scarcely would have been a football season."

Incensed, Lucien Nedzi, a Democratic congressman and combat veteran, demanded an explanation from the Defense Department. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara sheepishly admitted that the reserves might have given preference to "individuals who have the highest mental and physical qualifications" and ordered that by February all reserve organizations fill vacancies on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ultimately, the Army slightly lowered its standards to draft more athletes, eventually forcing a few prominent players, such as Cardinals starting quarterback Charley Johnson and Giants kicker Pete Gogolak, to serve. Even Gogolak initially got week-ends off to kick before missing the 1968 season when posted to Germany.

Those cases did nothing to dissuade the majority of the public (64 percent in one poll) from the belief that athletes and celebrities received special treatment. For good reason: Teams never ceased trying to shield players from Vietnam. Rocky Bleier, of the Pittsburgh Steelers, was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, but only after months of machinations by the team failed to save him from enlistment. Steelers owner Art Rooney later fumed that "what Bleier had done at Notre Dame, and what he might possibly do for the Pittsburgh Steelers, made no difference whatever" to the woman who ran the local draft board.

This failure was an outlier; a mere six NFL players ended up serving in the war effort. Commissioner Pete Rozelle made the NFL the first major league to send star players to Vietnam on a goodwill tour, including Johnny Unitas, Sam Huff and Frank Gifford.

In 1966, perhaps trying to cloak the league's unwillingness to contribute to the war effort, Commissioner Pete Rozelle made the NFL the first major league to send star players to Vietnam on a goodwill tour, including Johnny Unitas, Sam Huff and Frank Gifford.

Yet instead of highlighting the league's patriotic sacrifices, these tours actually exposed that America's gridiron warriors were pampered professionals who did not adjust easily to the rigors of a combat zone. Unitas refused to go on a second tour in 1969 when the Defense Department would not underwrite his \$1 million personal insurance policy. Soldiers assigned to escort duty complained that players expected pampering that accorded with their celebrity status, getting "grumpy" when filled out forms in a poorly air-conditioned lounge and protesting when days began at 0730.

At the same time that the NFL was trying to keep players out of the draft, the league

was hard at work projecting hard-line patriotism as a means of surpassing baseball as the national pastime. One byproduct of this quest was repression of dissenters such as the Cardinals' Dave Meggys, who organized antiwar petitions, protested the anthem and was summarily drummed out of football.

Another was what Rozelle proudly described as "a conscious effort on our part to bring the element of patriotism into the Super Bowl." And so military hardware popped up more and more frequently in pregame and halftime pageantry — flyovers in 1968, re-enactments of famous battles, even the missing-man formation to sell the false narrative that large numbers of soldiers remained in captivity in Vietnam.

Such efforts succeeded thanks to willing embraces from politicians on both sides of the aisle. Democratic Vice President Hubert Humphrey sought support from black players during his 1968 presidential campaign, while a squad of players led the hustings for Democrat George McGovern in 1972. On the right, Richard Nixon's administration countered patriotic displays at halftime as counterprogramming to antiwar marches in 1969 and bought its only national ads for Republican candidates in the 1970 midterm elections during professional football telecasts.

By 1975, when the NFL won itself official recognition as part of the next year's bicentennial observances as an "exceptional organization ... an American Institution," the identification was complete. The league had tied itself to the military, the presidency, to everything — it was, as the Bicentennial Administration put it, "so important in strengthening our posture domestically and internationally."

The current dissonance between NFL players and fans, then, is almost entirely a product of the league's success 50 years ago. Spectators who had been diligently taught to identify professional football solely with conservative versions of patriotism are understandably aghast that some players are challenging their vision of what being patriotic entails.

While this image was always at least half sham, the NFL sold it so well that it has boxed the league into a corner: Players demand that an industry that built its mass appeal on muting their concerns now use that same appeal to address those concerns. But having been sold the story of the league as a bulwark of conservative patriotism, few fans seem interested in exploring the league's cynical use of patriotism or the players' efforts to turn those patriotic displays into genuine acts of citizenship.

Jesse Berrett teaches history at San Francisco University High School and is author of "Pigskin Nation: How the NFL Remade American Politics."

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Lisa Benson/Washington Post Writers Group



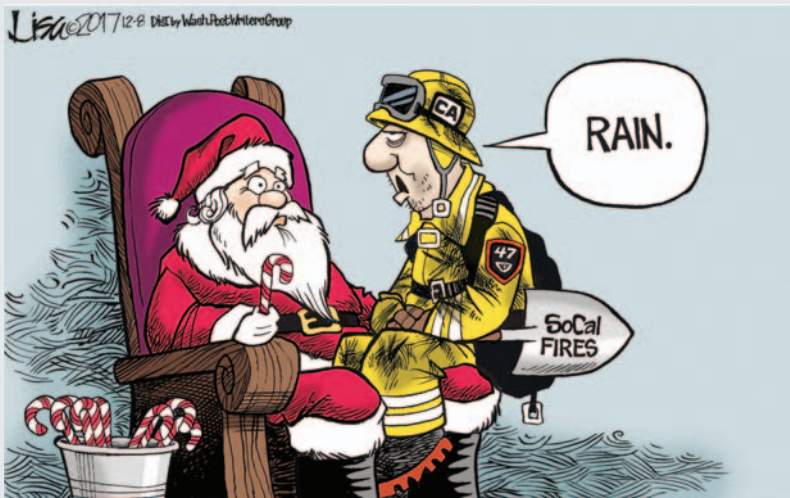
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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police department running out of citations

FL MIAMI — It's a good time to be a bad driver in Florida's most populous county.

The Miami Herald reported that Miami-Dade County police officers are rationing the paper tickets they issue as the department awaits a new electronic system next month. County officials didn't want to order new paper tickets and then have leftovers.

Department officials concede that means only the worst of the worst traffic scofflaws are getting tickets.

Maj. Hector Llevat told the paper that "officers are using their discretion."

Officers told the paper they are down to their last ticket book, which contain 25 citations.

3 hurt in fire caused by effort to kill bed bugs

OH CINCINNATI — Authorities said three people were injured and 10 people left homeless after a woman accidentally started a fire while trying to kill bed bugs with rubbing alcohol at a home in Cincinnati.

WXIX-TV reported it's the second time in two weeks that a fire sparked by attempts to kill bed bugs has caused extensive damage in Cincinnati.

Officials said the fire late Friday heavily damaged a five-unit building and sent three people to a hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. Damage is estimated at \$250,000.

Eight people were left homeless Nov. 28 when a 13-year-old boy set fire to an apartment building after dousing a bed bug with alcohol.

Glue-like substance on mailboxes investigated

NJ PATERSON — Some residents in a New Jersey city have noticed a glue-like substance on mailboxes is preventing their letters from going down the chute.

The U.S. Postal Service said what's happening in Paterson is often a method used by thieves to try to snatch envelopes containing cash or checks.

Postal inspector Greg Klie-minski told The Record the agency has launched an investigation. He declined to say how many incidents have been reported.

Scientists: Area could see more great whites

ME PORTLAND — Scientists say a great white shark detected in waters off Maine could be a sign that the big fish will become a more common sight in the years to come.

White sharks are near the northern edge of their range along the Maine coast, though they are not commonly seen in the area. One of the sharks was spotted in the waters off Kennebunkport in the summer of 2016.

University of New England marine scientist James Sulikowski said tracking devices discovered a different great white about 1.5 miles off Old Orchard Beach



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Soaring on the slack line

A woman is silhouetted against the sky at dusk while doing tricks on a slack line on the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., on Dec. 4.

In September, Sulikowski said the next step is to find out if the sharks are feeding and reproducing in the area or just transiting through.

Man accused of using cattle prod on children

IA SWAN — A man has been accused of using a cattle prod to discipline two children in south-central Iowa.

Court records say Travis Coker, 36, of rural Swan in Marion County, pleaded not guilty Thursday to two counts of felony child endangerment causing injury.

Criminal complaints say the girls reported that Coker used the prod to shock them as a "form of discipline."

Marion County Sheriff Jason Sandholdt said the 11- and 13-year-old girls weren't doing their

chores fast enough on the family farm, so Coker decided to use the prod, a hand-held rod that delivers an electric shock to control livestock.

Woman, boy arrested in package-theft case

OH MENTOR — A woman and a 10-year-old boy have been arrested for stealing \$1,200 worth of merchandise in packages taken from homes in Ohio.

Police said the duo were arrested Dec. 5 after someone witnessed the boy taking a package off a porch in Mentor and getting into a car. Officers stopped the car and found 21 packages inside, including marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Authorities said the shipping labels on the packages showed

items were taken from other homes in the area.

The woman, 18, is facing multiple charges including theft, marijuana possession and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Mystery 'giving man' hands out \$100 bills

ND FARGO — Residents of the Red River Valley know him only as "the giving man." His real name is a mystery, but his generosity is well known.

Witnesses said the man recently was at Gate City Bank in Fargo, where he was handing out \$100 bills.

Bank employee Jalyssa Sorenson said the man gave a \$100 bill to one of her co-workers, who initially declined to accept it. Sorenson said the man insisted and then gave others \$100 bills as well.

THE CENSUS



8 The number of classrooms a New Hampshire elementary school closed for repairs due to a report of an odor that later was identified as bat feces. A teacher first noticed the odor about Nov. 21 at the James Mastriola Upper Elementary School in Merrimack. Maintenance crews thought it was a dead mouse, then called in a company that found bat feces in a cavity between an exterior brick wall and an inside block. Crews tented off the outside wall, removed bricks, and sealed off affected areas. The plan is to have repairs done and the area sanitized within a couple of weeks. No bats have been discovered yet, but the plan is to install tubes with a one-way gate so in case bats fly out, they can't get back in.

Couple told again to get rid of support goats

OH BOWLING GREEN — An Ohio couple who say their three goats have helped ease the husband's depression have been ordered once again to get rid of them.

The Blade reported that Justin and Amanda Held were told during a court hearing Friday in Bowling Green they must remove the animals from their property for a misdemeanor zoning violation to be dismissed.

It's not the first time the Helds and the village of Grand Rapids have butted heads over the goats. The couple removed the goats last year after the village cited them but brought them back earlier this year when a doctor certified them as emotional support animals.

Inspection sticker placement to change

VA RICHMOND — State vehicle inspection stickers will soon have to be slapped on the lower left-hand corner of windshields.

Virginian motorists have long had to place inspection stickers in the bottom center of windshields. But local media reported the rules will change Jan. 1 for inspections that expire in 2019.

The new placement will be in line with other states.

Virginia State Police said the change was needed because of new crash-avoidance technology. In a statement, they said the "new technology utilizes the center of the windshield" and placement of items there could stop crash avoidance systems from working. There's no need to try to peel off existing inspection stickers from a car's glass. The change applies for newly issued 2019 stickers.

From wire reports

FACES

Globes race wide open

'Shape of Water,' 'Big Little Lies' lead nominations

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

Guillermo del Toro's Cold War-era fairy tale "The Shape of Water" swam away with a leading seven nominations from the Golden Globes, while the HBO drama "Big Little Lies" led television nominees with six nods.

In what's being viewed as a wide-open Oscar race, several films followed closely behind "The Shape of Water," including Steven Spielberg's Pentagon Papers drama "The Post," with six nominations, including best actress for Meryl Streep and best actor for Tom Hanks. Martin McDonagh's revenge drama "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" also got a major boost in the nominations announced Monday in Beverly Hills, Calif., with six nods, including best actress for Frances McDormand and supporting actor for Sam Rockwell.

But as the most prominent platform yet in Hollywood's awards season to confront the post-Harvey Weinstein landscape, the Globes also enthusiastically supported Ridley Scott's J. Paul Getty drama "All the Money in the World." Christopher Plummer, who replaced Kevin Spacey in the film, was nominated for best supporting actor. Scott was also nominated for best director and Michelle Williams for best actress.

Notably left out were frequent Globes nominees "House of Cards" and "Transparent," two of the TV shows affected by the cascading fallout of sexual harassment allegations in the wake of Weinstein's ouster.

Along with "The Shape of Water," "Three Billboards" and "The Post," the nominees for best drama were the tender young romance "Call Me by Your Name" (which also landed nods for Timothee Chalamet and Armie Hammer) and Christopher Nolan's World War II epic "Dunkirk."

But setting itself apart from the pack was the monster fable "The Shape of Water," which stars Sally Hawkins as a mute cleaning woman who falls in love with a captive amphibious creature.

Nods included del Toro's directing and Alexandre Desplat's sumptuous score.

The best picture comedy or musical category was led by a handful of Oscar favorites — Greta Gerwig's mother-daughter tale "Lady Bird," Jordan Peele's horror sensation "Get Out" — plus James Franco's making-of "The Room" comedy "The Disaster Artist"; the upcoming musical "The Greatest Showman"; and the Tonya Harding comic drama "I, Tonya."

Despite considerable backlash, "Get Out" ended up on the comedy side of the Globes after being submitted that way by Universal Pictures. The Globes passed over Peele's script, but newcomer Daniel Kaluuya was nominated for best actor in a comedy.

The nominees were fairly racially inclusive. Denzel Washington ("Roman J. Israel, Esq."), Mary J. Blige ("Mudbound"), Hong Chau ("Downsizing") and Octavia Spencer ("The Shape of Water") were among the 30 film acting nominees.

But the best director category remained all-male. Contenders like Gerwig, Patty Jenkins ("Wonder Woman") and Dee Rees ("Mudbound") were overlooked for a group of Spielberg, del Toro, Nolan, McDonagh and Scott.

The morning's biggest surprise might have been the complete omission of the romantic comedy "The Big Sick," penned by real-life couple Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon.

In the television categories, the Emmy-winning "Big Little Lies" earned a host of acting nods (Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Shailene Woodley, Alexander Skarsgard, Laura Dern) as well as best limited series.

FX's chronicle "Feud: Bette and Joan" landed four nominations, including nods for Jessica Lange and Susan Sarandon. Amazon's just-debuted "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" scored two nods, including best comedy series. Also with multiple nominations were Netflix's "Stranger Things," Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale" and NBC's "This Is Us."

Seth Meyers will host the Jan. 7 ceremony.



AP

'Coco' tops box office for third straight week

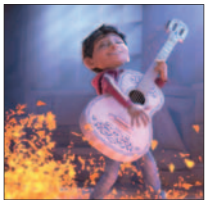
In advance of the highly anticipated "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" opening Friday, the weekend's action remained virtually unchanged, with Disney's "Coco" maintaining the top spot for the third weekend in a row.

"Coco" raked in an estimated \$18.3 million for a cumulative gross of \$135.5 million, according to figures from measurement firm ComScore.

Also unchanged, Warner Bros.' "Justice League" came in second place, earning \$9.6 million for a cumulative gross of \$212 million after four weeks in theaters.

"Wonder" maintained the No. 3 spot, taking in \$8.5 million and surpassing \$100 million overall, becoming the studio's highest-grossing film since "La La Land."

Now in its second week, "The Disaster Artist," which chronicles the making of Tommy Wiseau's cult-classic "The Room," earned \$6.4 million on the No. 4 spot. It has made a cumulative \$8 million. The film's success — paired with that of "Wonder," "Lady



DISNEY-PIXAR/AP

"Coco" continues to hold down the top spot at the box office.

Bird, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," "The Shape of Water" and "Call Me by Your Name" — disproves the notion that Oscar contenders generally don't perform well at the box office and marks a particularly auspicious year for indie films (while several big-budget blockbusters have disappointed).

Rounding out the top five was Disney's "Thor: Ragnarok," now in its sixth week, which made \$6.3 million for a cumulative \$301 million in earnings.

From the Los Angeles Times

Batali stepping back after accusations

Associated Press

Mario Batali is giving up oversight of the daily operations at his restaurant empire following reports of sexual misconduct by the celebrity chef over a period of at least 20 years.

The online site Eater New York reported Monday that the incidents involve at least four women, three whom worked for Batali. In a prepared statement sent to The Associated Press, Batali said that the complaints "match up" with his past behavior.

"I take full responsibility and am deeply sorry for any pain, humiliation or discomfort I have caused to my peers, employees, customers, friends and family," Batali said.

A spokesperson for Batali & Bastianich Hospitality Group says an employee reported inappropriate behavior by Batali in October. The company told Eater it was the first formal complaint against Batali and that he was reprimanded and required to attend training.

Batali will also take leave from his ABC cooking show, "The Chew."

Other news

■ HBO says the dark drama "Big Little Lies" is coming back for a second season. The channel said Dec. 8 that Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon will again star and serve as executive producers of the Emmy-winning series. The new episodes are based in part on a story by Liane Moriarty, author

of the novel "Big Little Lies." An air date for season two was not announced.

■ Charlie Sheen is suing the National Enquirer, saying that the magazine defamed him by alleging he sexually assaulted actor Corey Haim. In papers filed Dec. 8 in Los Angeles, Sheen called the tabloid's allegations "ridiculous" and "disgusting." The Enquirer's Nov. 8 edition includes a quote from actor Dominic Brascia, saying that Sheen had assaulted Haim when he was in his mid-teens and Sheen around 20. Sheen and Haim, who died in 2010, both appeared in the 1986 release "Lucas." Sheen is seeking unspecified damages.

■ Queens of the Stone Age frontman Joshua Homme has apologized after a photographer claimed the singer kicked her camera while she photographed the band's Dec. 9 concert in southern California.

■ A Florida newspaper reports that comedian Hannibal Buress was arrested early Dec. 10 on a disorderly intoxication charge after an encounter with a police officer.

■ Swedish comedy "The Square" swept this year's European Film Awards on Dec. 9, winning six prizes, including best film, director and screenwriter.

■ Rock superstar Tina Turner is working on a sequel to her 1986 memoir "I, Tina," Atria Books told The Associated Press on Monday. The new book is called "Tina Turner: My Love Story" and will come out in October, timed to the singer's 60th year in music.

SHIFTING GEARS

Classic coupe



The 2018 5.0L Mustang is the latest in a long line of legendary V-8s.

Courtesy of Ford

2018 Ford Mustang GT is a worthy competitor in the sports car market

BY CHARLES FLEMING
Los Angeles Times

If you're interested in the new Mustang, and you're going to take a test drive — do as I say, and not as I do: Drive the little one first and the big one second.

I joined the Ford folks in Malibu on a cool November morning for an introduction to the 2018 Mustang family. Ford had taken over Calamigos Ranch and had brought a dozen pony cars to the mountains for test drives.

On hand were several variations of the high-powered GT Coupe model, but fewer of the entry-level Ecoboost Coupe. I'd have preferred to start with the Ecoboost, but when none was available, I slid behind the wheel of a GT Coupe and sped away.

The air was crisp and the roads were clear. The car filled with the smell of sage and I spun the GT Coupe onto Latigo Canyon Road.

It's a tight, technical road that drops from Kanan Dume Road to Pacific Coast Highway through a series of sharp turns. I took it slow, knowing my limitations, and let the Mustang find its own pace.

The car was outfitted with the 5-liter, V-8 engine, mated to Ford's relatively new 10-speed transmission. Using the paddle shifters, in manual mode, and enjoying the comfortably responsive feel of the brakes, I urged the coupe into the corners and found it deliciously sharp and sticky.

The stiff suspension, improved by the special springs, stabilizer bars and damping system — options on this vehicle as part of the Magnetic Ride and GT Performance packages — kept the Michelin PS4 tires glued to the pavement.

The engine under the Mustang hood was

exhilarating, and the horsepower felt like an invitation for horseplay. When I saw the sign reading, "Slide Area," I did my best, but try as I might I couldn't get the back end to bust loose.

Turning north onto PCH I found the Coupe could also be quiet and contained. The front seats, I realized, were snug and comfortable. The back seats, such as they are, might be fine for storage but wouldn't be of much use for passengers. The two cup holders upfront were a nod to daily driver needs.

But I wasn't in the mood for daily driving. Turning onto Kanan Dume, I shifted into Sport mode, which uncorked the exhaust, and let the engine's rumble turn into

a roar. For the last quarter of the drive I rolled the windows down and soaked up the sound.

Half an hour later, I was in a similar GT Coupe, but this time equipped with Ford's six-speed manual gearbox and painted a dazzling color known as Orange Fury. The stick shift heightened my engagement and made me forget the pleasures of the 10-speed automatic.

I saw that, in addition to Sport mode, I was also offered Sport Plus, Snow/Wet, Track and Drag Strip options — the last two identified on the dashboard with crash helmet icons. (The dashboard also featured a speedometer marked Ground Speed, in case you thought you were airborne, and a tachometer marked Revolutions Per Minute, in case you forgot what RPM stood for.)

Hoping to be a good guest, and to be invited back to the next Ford event, I eschewed Track and Drag Strip and contented myself with Sport Plus for a few miles along Mulholland Highway.

It was lovely driving. Working the crisp gearbox, and enjoying the same responsive brakes, stiff suspension and sticky tires, I eyed the cup holders and wondered how long I'd be able to use the manual as a daily driver before winding up with latte in my lap.

The morning burned away, and with it my chance to drive the Ecoboost version. A couple of weeks passed before I was able to borrow one from Ford and give it a few days' worth of test driving.

Unfairly, I was disappointed.

The Mustang with the smaller engine and the automatic transmission (a \$1,585 upgrade from the 6-speed manual on these Mustangs) felt feeble and hesitant compared with its bigger displacement

brothers.

I wasn't just imagining things. The turbocharged 2.3-liter, 4-cylinder engine makes a respectable 310 horsepower and 350 pound-feet of torque. But the 5-liter, V-8 numbers are 460 horsepower and 420 pound-feet. (The top-of-the-line Shelby GTs go further, with 526 horsepower and 429 pound-feet of torque.)

The smaller-bore pony car seemed more interested in maximizing fuel economy than in having an interesting driving experience. In Normal, automatic transmission mode, under normal acceleration, the car fell into fourth, fifth or even sixth gear before it got to the end of the block. In Sport mode, using the paddle shifters, it was a little bit less amenable. But the paddle shift experience felt shuffling, imprecise and lacking the sharpness I had enjoyed on the GT Coupe.

I also found that, because the driving was less thrilling, I was a little bit more aware of the environment. And I didn't like the environment as much in the smaller car as I had in the bigger engine version — though the environments were exactly the same.

Undistracted by the amazing horsepower and handling, I began to notice that the visibility was less than ideal and that the driver ergonomics weren't quite right. No matter how many times I adjusted the seats and the steering wheel I couldn't quite find exactly the right position.

In other words, I should've had a V-8. Or tested the cars in the opposite order.

Either way, the new Mustangs continue to represent good sports car bargains for buy-American car shoppers. The 2.3-liter Mustang Coupe Premiums start at \$31,500; the GT Coupe Premiums begin at \$39,995.

Considering the competition, those are good reasons to pony up on a Mustang.

2018 Ford Mustang Ecoboost and GT Coupe Premiums

Times' take: Classic coupes at reasonable rates

Highs: Timeless styling, 21st-century power and handling

Lows: Driver ergonomics and visibility issues

Vehicle type: Four-door, four-passenger coupes

Base price: \$31,500, \$39,995

Price as tested: \$42,270, \$53,160

Powertrain: 2.3-liter four-cylinder gasoline engine, 5-liter V-8 gasoline engine

Transmission: 10-speed automatic, 6-speed manual

Horsepower: 310, 460

Torque: 350 pound-feet, 420 pound-feet

EPA fuel economy rating: 21 mpg city/32 highway/26 combined on 2.3-liter engine; 16 mpg city/25 highway/26 combined on 5-liter engine.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Boy, 6, makes \$11M reviewing toys on YouTube

By SAMANTHA SCHMIDT
The Washington Post

When most people think back on the child celebrities of their time, they likely think of child movie actors, the well-trained stars of showbiz. For some, these were stars like Mary Kate and Ashley Olson, or Macaulay Carson Culkin from "Home Alone." For others, they were Judy Garland or Shirley Temple.

For kids these days, however, some of the biggest stars are not actors at all but YouTube stars.

One of the biggest of them all is a 6-year-old named Ryan who plays with toys — mesmerizing millions of children across the globe.

Since he was 3 years old, Ryan's parents have been capturing videos of him opening toys, playing with them and "reviewing" them for videos posted on their YouTube channel, "Ryan ToysReview."

Ryan's last name and his place of residence are a closely guarded secret, and not without reason.

Ryan has become a multi-mil-

lionaire, according to Forbes magazine's just-out list of highest paid YouTube entrepreneurs. He was ranked number eight, having brought in \$11 million in revenue between June 1, 2016, and June 1, 2017, before management fees and taxes, of course. He tied with the comedy channel Smosh, created by Anthony Padilla and Ian Hecox.

Children everywhere have become hooked, watching his videos for hours a day, even mimicking him and starting their own YouTube channels. For some of his youngest fans, Ryan is not just some stranger on the internet. He is their friend.

Combined, the world's 10 highest-paid YouTube stars earned \$127 million, up 80 percent from last year. According to Forbes, this boost came thanks to ad dollars from a surge in views — including a healthy sum from Ryan ToysReview. During the 12 months considered by Forbes, "Ryan ToysReview" counted more than 8 billion views.

What has grown into a viral

phenomenon began with a simple, unremarkable 15-minute video about a Lego Duplo train set. When his family started re-creating and posting the videos in March 2015, the 3-year-old barely had any views let alone reviews, according to a profile of Ryan in Verge. In his first video, he simply opened a Lego box, set up the blocks, and played with them.

Ryan was watching a lot of toy review channels — some of his favorites are EvanTubeHD and Huayan Maya — because they used to make a lot of videos about Thomas the Tank Engine, and Ryan was super into Thomas," his mother, who declined to be named, told TubeFilter last year.

"One day, he asked me, 'How come I'm not on YouTube when all the other kids are?' So we just decided — yeah, we can do that. Then, we took him to the store to get his very first toy — I think it was a Lego train set — and it all started from there."

Soon the boy started playing with not just one toy at a time, but two, and then dozens.

"Ryan ToysReview" took off. Views started doubling every month. In January of 2016, he hit 1 million subscribers. A year later, he had more than 5 million. Now, he's at more than 10 million subscribers and more than 16 million views.

In June, TubeFilter ranked "Ryan ToysReview" as the most viewed YouTube channel in the U.S. for the 40th week in a row. In September, NBA player Kevin Durant was featured in one of Ryan's videos performing a children's science experiment.

Each time someone clicks on one of Ryan's videos, his family makes money. There are ads and links to ads all over the place.

Ryan has real impact.

"If a product gets ten million, twenty millions views, and you see that Ryan loves it, or other kids love it, it has a huge impact at retail," Jim Silver, CEO of the review site Toys, Tots, and More, told the Verge when Ryan was still 5 years old. "He's really the youngest success that we've seen. Most of the time the kids

were in the six-plus range, just because of the vocabulary and the maturity to do a review."

Parents have left scores of messages on Ryan's YouTube channel, thanking him and his parents, saying their kids sometimes watch his videos for hours a day.

"My son is autistic," one parent wrote. "Your videos are helping him to speak, use his imagination, and properly use toys. He enjoys these videos several times a day and I would just love to say thank you!"

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 12)	\$1.2101
Dollar buys (Dec. 12)	69.8264
British pound (Dec. 12)	\$1.37
Japanese yen (Dec. 12)	111.00
South Korean won (Dec. 12)	1,066.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.3355
Canada (Dollar)	1.2858
China (Yuan)	6.6181
Denmark (Krone)	6.3098
Egypt (Pound)	17.8389
Euro	\$1.1794/0.8479
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.6064
Hungary (Forint)	266.51
Israel (Sheqel)	3.5237
Japan (Yen)	113.42
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3022
Norway (Krone)	8.3662
Philippines (Peso)	50.32
Poland (Zloty)	3.56
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7497
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3515
South Korea (Won)	1,088.54
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9910
Thailand (Baht)	52.63
Turkey (New Lira)	8.2313

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.00
Discount rate	1.75
Federal funds market rate	1.16
3-month bill	1.25
30-year bond	2.77

Bitcoin futures rise as virtual currency hits US exchange

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The first bitcoin future jumped after it began trading Sunday as the increasingly popular virtual currency made its debut on a major U.S. exchange.

The futures contract that expires in August surged more than \$3,000 to \$18,580 eight hours after trading launched on the Chicago Board Options Exchange. The contract opened at \$15,000, according to data from the CBOE.

The CBOE futures don't involve actual bitcoin. They're securities that will track the price of bitcoin on Gemini, one of the larger bitcoin exchanges.

The start of trading overwhelmed the CBOE

website. "Due to heavy traffic on our website, visitors to www.cboe.com may find that it is performing slower than usual and may at times be temporarily unavailable," the exchange said in a statement. It said the trading in the futures had not been disrupted.

Another large futures exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, will start trading its own futures on Dec. 18 but will use a composite of several bitcoin prices across a handful of exchanges.

The price of a bitcoin has soared since beginning the year below \$1,000, hitting a peak of more than \$16,858 on Thursday on the bitcoin exchange Coinbase.

Futures are a type of contract in which a

buyer and a seller agree on a price for a particular item to be delivered on a certain date in the future, hence the name.

The futures signal greater mainstream acceptance of bitcoin but also open up bitcoin to additional market forces.

How much actual investor interest there will be in these bitcoin futures is still up in the air. Many larger Wall Street brokerages and clearinghouses, including Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, are either not allowing customers to trade bitcoin futures or only allowing select clients to do so. Other brokerages are putting restrictions on the amount of margin a trader can use in bitcoin futures, or putting limits on the amount that can be purchased.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.



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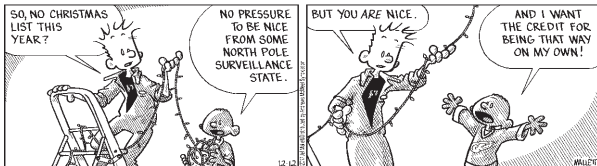
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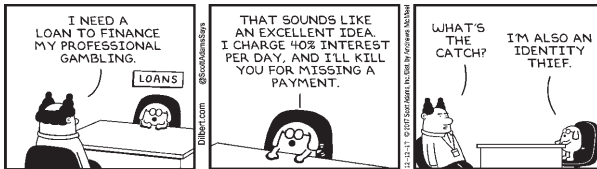
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Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



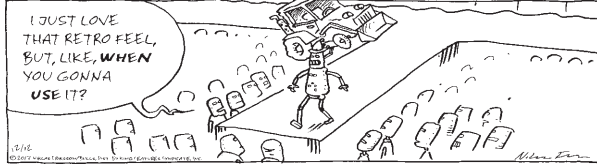
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
				18					19	20		
21	22	23						24				
25						26	27				28	29
30						31				32		
33				34						35		
				36						37		
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

ACROSS

- 1 "That was close!"
- 5 Largest continent
- 9 Religious sch.
- 12 Competent
- 13 Influence
- 14 Method
- 15 Chilly stretch
- 17 Belief
- 18 Heart of the matter
- 19 "Yum!"
- 20 No longer wild
- 24 Golf standards
- 25 Colorations
- 26 Hipsters
- 30 Curator's focus
- 31 Dodge (work)
- 32 Mummuu accessory
- 33 Bedtime drink
- 35 Bridge
- 36 Port of Algeria
- 37 Frisbee shapes
- 38 North African capital
- 40 River deposit
- 42 Year in Cancún
- 43 Latest fad
- 48 Director Burton
- 49 Holiday lead-ins
- 50 Rowboat needs
- 51 Paris summer
- 52 Facts and figures
- 53 Mimicking bird

DOWN

- 1 Lobbying org.
- 2 "Veep" airer
- 3 Right angle
- 4 Hunks of cheese
- 5 PC programs
- 6 Fat
- 7 Unwell
- 8 Like a do-nothing windbag
- 9 Heidi's mountains
- 10 Sunrise direction
- 11 "Goodness!"
- 16 Caesar or Vicious
- 20 Rainbow shape
- 21 Spring meltdown
- 22 Mystique
- 23 Piano student's ticker
- 24 Beans go-with screening org.
- 26 Goatee's spot
- 27 Texas tea
- 28 Ship wood
- 29 Goes astray
- 31 Blotto
- 34 Hosp. scan
- 35 "Cheers," for one
- 37 Roman 551
- 38 London gallery
- 39 One
- 40 Undo a dele
- 41 "— deal!"
- 44 Eggs
- 45 Jay follower
- 46 Directional ending
- 47 Airport

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	I	D	B	O	P	D	A	D	S
P	A	S	A	D	E	N	A	E	K	S
H	A	M	I	L	T	O	N	P	I	N
			S	I	S		T	A	I	N
C	O	D	E	X		C	H	I	C	
A	V	I	S		S	H	E	L	T	O
P	U	N		H	A	L	O	S		V
			M	E	G	A	T	O	N	
				R	I	C	E		B	
S	L	E	I	G	H		H	O	I	
P	E	R	T		E	D	M	O	N	T
O	A	S	T		L	O	O	K	E	D
T	H	E	Y		S		L	O	S	

12-12

CRYPTOQUIP

ZYCV E TCJMWV LM RCOOLVR
E BEPC-HLBO UWVC, ZWFHU
GWF MEG OYC MFJRCWV LM
TLPQLVR FT OYC PYCCQ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR TRIO OF MISERLY CURMUDGEONS THAT STARRED IN MANY OLD SHORT FILMS: THE THREE SCROOGES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P


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- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Automotive 140

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SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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SPORTS

Sports AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Baseball

Remaining free agents

NEW YORK — The 158 remaining free agents (q-rejected quality control offer):

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE (3) — Pedro Alvarez; dh: J.J. Hardy; ss: Jeremy Hellickson; rf: Ubaldo Jimenez; lf: Wade Miley; inf: Seth Smith; of: Chris Tillman, rhp.

BOSTON (7) — Fernando Abad, Mitch Bower, Ryan Blevins, of: Brian Davis, of: Mitch Moreland, lf: Eduardo Nunez, inf: Addison Reed, rhp: Chris Young, of:

CHICAGO (2) — Mike Pelfrey, rhp; George Soriano, rhp.

CLEVELAND (7) — Craig Breslow, rhp; Jay Bruce, of; Austin Jackson, of; Boone Logan, inf; Carlos Stanton, c; Bryan Shaw, rhp; Joe Smith, rhp.

FEBRUARY — Anibal Sanchez, rhp; **HOUSTON** (5) — Carlos Beltran, rf; Tyler Clippard, rhp; Luke Gregerson, rhp; Francisco Lirio, inf; Cameron Maybin, of.

KANSAS CITY (8) — Mike Cabrera, of; Trevor Cahill, rhp; Lorenzo Cain, of; Alcides Escobar, ss; Eric Hosmer, 1b; Mike Moustakas, 3b; Peter Moylan, rhp; Jason Vargas, rhp.

LOS ANGELES (10) — Andrew Bailey, rhp; Jesse Chavez, rhp; Yunel Escobar, 3b; Ricky Nolasco, rhp; Bud Norris, rhp; Cliff Pennington, inf; Brandon Phillips, rhp; Matt Shoemaker, rhp; Fernando Salas, rhp; Huston Street, rhp.

MINNESOTA (5) — Matt Beisele, rhp; Ryan Brashers, rhp; Dillon Coates, rhp; Glen Perkins, inf; Hector Sanchez, rhp.

NEW YORK (5) — Todd Frazier, 3b; Jacob deGrom, rhp; Matt Harvey, rhp; Michael Pineda, rhp; CC Sabathia, 1b.

OKLAHOMA (4) — Yonder Alonso, 1b; Gordon Beckham, inf; Jarrod Dyson, of; Yovani Gallardo, rhp; Carlos Ruiz, c; Danny Santana, 2b.

TAMPA BAY (9) — Peter Bourjos, of; Steve Cishek, rhp; Alex Cobb, rhp; Luke DuBois, 1b; Tommy Hunter, rhp; Logan Morrison, 1b; Trevor Plouffe, 3b; Colby Rasmus, of; Sergio Romo, rhp.

TEXAS (5) — Andrew Cashner, rhp; Carlos Gomez, of; Miguel Gonzalez, rhp; Jacob deGrom, rhp; Mike Trout, of.

TORONTO (5) — Brett Anderson, inf; Darwin Barney, 2b; Jose Bautista, of; Daniel Montero, c; Michael Saunders, of.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA (6) — Gregor Blanco, of; Jorge De La Rosa, rhp; David Hernandez, rhp; J.D. Martinez, of; Fernando Rodney, rhp; Adam Rosales, rhp.

ATLANTA (2) — R.A. Dickey, rhp; Jason Motte, rhp.

BOSTON (3) — Jake Arrieta, rhp; Alex Avila, c; q-Wade Davis, rhp; Brian Dwyer, rhp; Jon Jay, rhp; Ryan Lachey, rhp; Rene Rivera, of; Kolby Allard, rhp.

CINCINNATI (4) — Bronson Arroyo, rhp; Drew Storen, rhp.

COLORADO (8) — Alexi Amarista, inf; Carlos Gonzalez, rhp; Logan Kensing, rhp; Greg Holland, rhp; Jonathan Lucroy, c; Mike McGee, inf; Pat Neshech, rhp; Mark Reynolds, 1b.

LOS ANGELES (7) — Yu Darvish, rhp; Andrew Ginter, of; Curtis Granderson, of; Franklin Gutierrez, 2b; Ryan Lugo, rhp; Chase Utley, 2b; Tony Watson, inf.

MIAMI (4) — Mike Aviles, inf; J.J. Ellis, c; Justin Medwinski, rhp; Ichiro Suzuki, 2b.

MILWAUKEE (3) — Matt Garza, rhp; Anthony Swarzak, rhp; Neil Walker, 2b.

NEW YORK (1) — Jose Reyes, inf; **PHILADELPHIA** (4) — Andy Benoit, rhp; inf: Clay Buchholz, rhp; Hyun-Soo Kim, of; Daniel Nava, inf.

PITTSBURGH (3) — Joaquin Benoit, rhp; John Jaso, 1b; Chris Stewart, c.

ST. LOUIS (4) — Zach Duke, rhp; q-Lance Lynn, rhp; Jordan Lyles, rhp; Seung-Hwan Oh, rhp.

SAN DIEGO (4) — Eric Aybar, ss; Jhoulys Chacin, rhp; Jordan Lyles, rhp; Clayton Kershaw, rhp.

SAN FRANCISCO (4) — Matt Cain, rhp; Nate Schenker, rhp; Jae-Gym Hwang, rhp; Michael Morse, 1b.

WASHINGTON (2) — Matt Albers, rhp; Joe Blanton, rhp; Jeandro De Aza, of; Stephen Drew, 2b; Edwin Jackson, rhp; Stephen Lore, 2b; Brandon Kintzler, rhp; Adam Lind, 1b; Jose Lobaton, c; Oliver Perez, rhp; Ryan Raburn, of; Jayson Werth, of.

College football

Bowl schedule

Saturday, Dec. 16

Celebration Bowl
NC A&T (11-0) vs. Grambling St. (11-1)

New Orleans Bowl
North Texas (9-4) vs. Troy (10-2)

Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Georgia State (6-5) vs. Western Kentucky (2-6)

Las Vegas Bowl
Boise State (10-3) vs. Oregon (7-5)

New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
Colorado State (7-5) vs. Marshall (7-5)

Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Middle Tennessee (6-6)

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Akron (7-5) vs. FAU (10-9)

Wednesday, Dec. 20

Frisco (Texas) Bowl
Louisiana Tech (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5)

Thursday, Dec. 21

Gasparilla Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Temple (6-6) vs. FIU (10-9)

Friday, Dec. 22

Bahamas Bowl
Ohio (8-4) vs. UAB (8-4)

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Central Michigan (7-5) vs. Wyoming (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 23

Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
S. Florida (9-2) vs. Texas Tech (6-6)

Florida Citrus Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
San Diego State (10-2) vs. Army (9-3)

Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Appalachian St. (8-4) vs. Toledo (11-2)

Sunday, Dec. 24

Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Fresno State (9-4) vs. Houston (7-6)

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Heart of Dallas Bowl
West Virginia (10-3) vs. UConn (1-6)

Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Northern Illinois (8-4) vs. Duke (6-6)

Cactus Bowl
Phoenix
Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6)

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Independence Bowl
New Orleans
Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6)

Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5)

Foster Farms Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6)

Thursday, Dec. 28

Military Bowl
Houston
Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5)

Friday, Dec. 29

Capital One Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3)

Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3)

Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3)

Friday, Dec. 29

Charlotte, N.C.
Wake Forest (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5)

SUNBELT
El Paso, Texas
NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona St. (10-3)

Muscle City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3)

Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
New Mexico State (6-5) vs. Utah State (6-6)

Cotton Bowl Classic
Dallas, Texas
Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio St. (11-2)

Orange Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Texas A&M (7-5) vs. Mississippi St. (8-4)

Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Iowa State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2)

Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
Washington (10-2) vs. Penn St. (10-2)

Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2)

Monday, Jan. 1

Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4)

Peach Bowl
Atlanta
UCF (10-2) vs. Auburn (10-3)

Old Blue Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3)

Old Spice Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
North Dakota (12-1) vs. Wake Forest (7-5)

Sugar Bowl
Orleans, La.
Clemson (12-1) vs. Alabama (11-1)

Monday, Jan. 8

College Football Championship
Rose Bowl
Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner

Sunday, Jan. 20

East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, Miami at Matherly 51

NFLPA College Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
East vs. West, National

Saturday, Jan. 27

Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South

FCS playoffs

Quarterfinals
Friday, Dec. 8
James Madison 21, Weber State 18

Saturday, Dec. 9
North Dakota State 56, Wofford 10
South Dakota State 56, New Hampshire 14

Seminifinals
Friday, Dec. 15
Sam Houston State 34, Kennesaw State 27

Saturday, Dec. 16
South Dakota State (11-2) at James Madison (13-0)

Championship
Saturday, Jan. 6
At Toyota Stadium
Frisco, Texas
Seminifinal winners

Division II playoffs

First Round
Saturday, Nov. 18
West Chester 27, Shippensburg 26
Ferris State 24, Ouachita Baptist 19
Indiana 29, Sheldahl 17

Second Round
Saturday, Nov. 25
West Virginia 31, Wingate 0
West Georgia 35, Virginia State 9
Mississippi State 36, Colorado State-Pueblo 13, OT
North Carolina 45, West Virginia 35
Assumption 40, California (Pa.) 31
Harding 27, Indianapolis 24
Midwestern State 24, Sioux Falls 20
Texas A&M-Commerce 20, Winona State 6

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Dec. 2
Indiana (Pa.) 77, Arizona 22
Harding 16, Ferris State 14
West Virginia 24, Alabama 21
Texas A&M-Commerce 31, Minnesota State-Mankato 23

Seminifinals
Saturday, Dec. 9
West Virginia 67, Indiana (Pa.) 17
Texas A&M-Commerce 31, Harding 17

Kansas City, Kan.
West Virginia (11-3) vs. Texas A&M-Commerce (13-1)

Division III playoffs

Second Round
Saturday, Nov. 25
Mount Union (Pa.) vs. Eastern 16
Frostburg State 46, Washington & Jefferson 28
Delaware Valley 37, Huxson 15
Adams 49, Wesley 28
Central Penn 38, Gettysburg 19
Wisconsin-Oshkosh 42, North Central 28

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Dec. 2
Mount Union 60, Frostburg State 28
Penn State Harrisburg 53, Boston College 33
Mary Hardin-Baylor 24, St. Thomas (Minn.) 10

Seminifinals
Saturday, Dec. 9
Mary Hardin-Baylor 24, Brockport 0
St. Thomas 43, Wisconsin-Oshkosh 40

Championship
Friday, Dec. 15
At Salem, Va.
Mount Union (14-0) vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor (14-0)

NIAA playoffs

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Nov. 25
Saint Francis (Ind.) 52, Northwestern (Iowa) 7
Morningside (Iowa) 52, Saint Xavier 7
St. Francis (Ky.) 10, Southern Oregon 34
Lindsey Wilson 29

Seminifinals
Saturday, Dec. 2
Saint Francis (Ind.) 43, Morningside 28
Reinhardt 37, Southern Oregon 34

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 16
At Municipal Stadium
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Saint Francis (Ind.) (13-0) vs. Reinhardt (12-0)

College basketball

Sunday's men's scores

EAST

Fairfield 76, LIU Brooklyn 72
Maine 72, Middlebury 51
North 73, Columbia 68
Robert Morris 74, Drexel 60
St. Francis (Pa.) 83, Niagara 87, OT
Villanova 77, La Salle 68
Wagner 75, Mercer 41

SOUTH

Chattanooga 64, Chattanooga 60
Coll. of Charleston 92, North Greenville 60

ETSU

60, 100
FAU 106, Weber International 46
Florida St. 72, Tulane 51
High Point 110, Toccoa Falls 39
LSU 97, UNC-Wilmington 84
N. Kentucky 81, E. Kentucky 63
Lynn 127, Cincinnati 60
North Miss. 89, Troy 71
UNC Asheville 97, Milligan 60
UT Martin 127, Cincinnati 60
Virginia Tech 66, Mt. Eastern Shore 66

MIDWEST

Arizona 58, Kansas 85
Cleveland St. 89, Notre Dame Coll. 56
Iowa St. 91, Southern Ill. 60
Iowa St. 78, Alcorn St. 58
N. Iowa St. 80, Subotich 40
Ohio 89, Kentucky 84
Purdue 85, IUPUI 63
SIU-Edwardsville 76, South Alabama 75
South Dakota 75, E. Washington 67

SOUTHWEST

Orlando Robert 73, Miami 66
Gonzaga 87, Washington 70
Hawaii 82, Hawaii Ho 64
N. Colorado 104, Oklahoma Panhandle State 53
UNLV 89, Illinois 82

FAR WEST

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Brown 83, Colgate 73
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LIU 69, LIU Post 69
Butler 101, Fairleigh Dickinson 53
Boston College 53, Boston College 53
UMass St. Peter's 65
Villanova 89, Temple 65

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60, 100
West Virginia 101, Coppin St. 43
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Duke 101, Winthrop 30

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Florida Gulf Coast 99, Ave Maria 35
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IUPUI 68, Tennessee Tech 54
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NC State 83, Georgia Southern 49
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North Florida 87, Florida A&M 68
Radford 79, VCU 62
Tennessee 82, Texas 75
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Virginia Tech 64, Chattanooga 44

MIDWEST

Ball St. 126, Oakland City 59
Louisiana Tech 72, Nebraska Omaha 51
Green Bay 76, Loyola of Chicago 39
SIU 73, Detroit 60
Illinois St. 65, E. Michigan 56
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Kansas St. 55, MSU 41
Marquette 83, Army 53
Michigan St. 84, Kent St. 41
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Ohio 77, Purdue 71
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MLB/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tigers Morris, Trammell elected to Hall of Fame

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Former Detroit Tigers teammates Jack Morris and Alan Trammell were elected to the baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, completing the journey from Motown to Cooperstown.

Morris, a big-game pitcher, and Trammell, a star shortstop, were picked by a 16-man Modern Baseball Era committee that considered 10 candidates whose biggest contributions came from 1970-87.

Morris got 14 votes and Trammell drew 13, one more than the minimum needed.

They'll be enshrined on July 29. Fitting that they'll go in together — they both began their big league careers in 1977 with Detroit, and played 13 seasons alongside each other with the Tigers.

"Time has made this even more special. I've learned a lot along the way," the 62-year-old Morris said on a conference call.

Former catcher Ted Simmons fell one vote short of election and former players' union head Marvin Miller was five shy of the 12 needed for election.

A durable right-hander, Morris posted 254 wins. His most famous victory was a 10-inning shutout, winning 1-0 for Minnesota over Atlanta in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series.

"No question it was my defining moment in baseball," Morris said. "I've never pitched a game where I had better focus. I never had a negative thought, even though I was in trouble several times."

Morris had a 3.90 ERA, the highest of any pitcher in the Hall. He also won World

Series in Detroit — with Trammell, in 1984 — and Toronto in 1992.

Now 59, Trammell was a steady presence in the middle of the diamond while playing all 20 of his seasons in Detroit.

Trammell was the 1984 World Series MVP, hitting .450 as the Tigers trounced San Diego in five games and finished off a

season in which they started out 35-5.

A six-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glover, Trammell scored 1,231 runs and drove in 1,003. He batted .285 with 185 home runs and a .352 on-base average — he walked 850 times and struck out 874.

Trammell never came close to election during his 15 tries on

the Hall ballot in voting by Baseball Writers' Association of America members. His best showing came in his last year, when he got 40.9 percent in 2016.

Morris got a lot closer.

Starting at 22 percent in his first Hall ballot appearance in 2000, Morris peaked at 67.7 percent in 2003, falling 42 short. He dropped to 61.5 percent four years ago in his final time on the writers' ballot, 78 votes shy.

Hall of Fame players George Brett, Rod Carew, Dennis Eckersley, Don Sutton, Dave Winfield and Robin Yount were on the panel that voted.

Steve Garvey, Tommy John, Don Mattingly, Dale Murphy, Dave Parker and Luis Tiant also were on the ballot.

The BBWAA annual vote on players will be announced Jan. 24.

Chipper Jones, Jim Thome and Omar Vizquel are among 19 first-time candidates, and Trevor Hoffman, Vladimir Guerrero, Edgar Martinez, Roger Clemens are Barry Bonds among the holdovers.



Trammell



Morris



ORLIN WAGNER/AP

Arizona State guard Tra Holder drives to the basket past Kansas guard Devonte' Graham, bottom, and center Udoka Azubuike, right, during Sunday's game in Lawrence, Kan. The Sun Devils beat the Jayhawks 95-85.

Top 25 roundup

No. 16 Arizona State upsets No. 2 Kansas

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Tra Holder scored 29 points on 8-for-16 shooting and No. 16 Arizona State upset No. 2 Kansas 95-85 on Sunday, handing the Jayhawks their second straight loss.

Shannon Evans II had 22 points and Remy Martin added 21 for the Sun Devils (9-0). Arizona State shot 50 percent from three-point range and 50.8 percent overall.

After a slow start that forced coach Bobby Hurley to use a timeout less than two minutes into the game, Arizona State snapped back into it, trimming the deficit to just three points at halftime. The Sun Devils outscored the Jayhawks 58-42 in the second half.

"I didn't really have to coach a whole lot tonight," Hurley said. "These guys sitting with me here deserve all the credit."

Lagerald Vick led Kansas (7-2) with 25 points. The Jayhawks fell to Washington on

Wednesday night.

No. 4 Villanova 77, La Salle 68: At Philadelphia, Phil Booth and Donte DiVincenzo each scored 18 points and Villanova avoided an upset to remain undefeated.

The Wildcats (10-0) were sloppy, struggled from three-point range and could not shake the pesky Explorers until the final minutes of the game to win their 21st straight Big 5 game.

No. 12 Gonzaga 97, Washington 70: Johnathan Williams had 23 points and 12 rebounds, Zach Norvell Jr. added 21 points and the Bulldogs ran away in the second half against the host Huskies.

The Bulldogs (8-2) rebounded nicely from a loss to Villanova and never allowed the Huskies (7-3) to entertain the idea of a second Top 25 upset in one week.

No. 21 Purdue 86, IU/PUI 61: Carsen Edwards scored a career-high 27 points and the Boilermakers beat the visiting Jaguars for coach Matt Painter's 300th win.

Gregerson, other relievers in demand at winter meetings

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Now that Shohei Ohtani and Giancarlo Stanton picked their new places to play, baseball bosses checked into the winter meetings primed to make moves that had been bottled up for weeks.

The market for relievers quickly warmed Sunday, even before many teams got word to business.

Luke Gregerson found a spot in the St. Louis bullpen, and Brandon Morrow could be closing for the Cubs. Still available: free agents Wade Davis, Greg Holland and Brandon Kintzler.

"There are a lot of guys out there, a lot of teams looking for relief pitching," New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson. "We think there's some value."

"I don't think that we will jump into the inferno, but we do want to improve our bullpen," he said.

Plenty of top hitters are in play, too, a list topped by J.D. Martinez and Eric Hosmer. Yu Darvish and Jake Arrieta are among the starters listening to offers.

Ohtani, the prized pitcher/hitter from Japan, chose to join the Los Angeles An-

gels and was presented over the weekend by his new club.

"There were lots of teams that were involved in Ohtani," Alderson said. "Now we have the winter meetings, so I think we have the right forum and I think some things have been cleared away, and I do think activity will pick up."

The Cardinals got busy, reaching a deal with Gregerson, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Gregerson will get an \$11 million, two-year contract. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement was subject to a physical and had not yet been announced.

The 33-year-old righty was 2-3 with a career-high 4.57 ERA in 65 relief appearances for Houston. He didn't permit a run in five postseason appearances as the Astros won their first World Series championship.

The Cubs anticipate losing Davis, but seem to have filled the void with Morrow. Multiple reports have the 33-year-old righty joining Chicago.

Morrow was 6-0 with two saves and a 2.06 ERA in 45 games for the Los Angeles Dodgers last season. He never pitched in all seven World Series games.

NHL/SPORTS BRIEFS

Roundup

Tarasenko gets 'lucky' on OT goal to lift Blues

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Mired in a scoring slump, St. Louis forward Vladimir Tarasenko was looking for that lucky bounce.

He found it when the Blues needed it most.

Tarasenko scored with 36 seconds left in overtime, and the short-handed St. Louis Blues beat the Buffalo Sabres 3-2 on Sunday night.

"I think when so many chances and the puck doesn't go in, you just have to play simple and get that lucky bounce," Tarasenko said. "But I think overall our line is playing better every game. We're getting more chances all the time."

Brayden Schenn and Paul Stastny also scored, and Joel Edmundson recorded two assists as the Blues topped the Sabres for the 10th time in their past 11 meetings. Jake Allen made 22 saves, improving to 5-1 in six career starts against Buffalo.

Evan Rodrigues, in just his third game this season after coming back from a hand injury, scored both goals for the Sabres, who have lost six of seven. Robin Lehner made 42 saves.

Tarasenko used his speed to get around the Sabres defense and notch his 14th goal of the season. Tarasenko tried to go backhand-forehand, but the puck deflected off Lehner's outstretched stick and into the net before he could finish the move.

"I didn't want him to get a shot off, so I did a poke check and it was a second too early and it went in, but he's a hell of a player with a hell of a shot, so I just wanted to take that away," Lehner said. "I had him most of the game and it's tough."

Blackhawks 3, Coyotes 1: Corey Crawford made 31 saves, Artem Anisimov scored with 4:47 left in the third period and host Chicago beat Arizona.

Tommy Wingels and Nick Schmaltz also scored in the third trip to Chicago win its second straight after dropping five in a row. Patrick Kane had two assists to run his career total to 781 points, breaking a tie with Doug Wilson for fifth on the franchise scoring list.

Maple Leafs 1, Oilers 0: Curtis McElhinney made 41 saves for his first shutout of the season and Zach Hyman scored in the first minute in host Toronto's victory over Edmonton.

McElhinney was making his fifth start of the season, giving starter Frederik Andersen a rest.

Wild 4, Sharks 3 (OT): Nino Niederreiter scored 3:26 into overtime and visiting Minnesota beat San Jose after squandering a three-goal lead.



JEFF ROBBSON/AP

The Blues' Vladimir Tarasenko, center, scores the winning goal past Sabres goalie Robin Lehner as Buffalo's Evander Kane defends during overtime on Sunday in St. Louis.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	29	21	6	2	44	110	74
Toronto	31	20	10	1	41	106	88
Boston	27	14	9	4	32	78	75
Montreal	31	13	14	4	30	85	99
Detroit	29	11	13	5	27	80	97
Florida	29	11	14	4	26	88	104
Ottawa	28	9	12	7	25	77	98
Buffalo	30	7	17	6	20	64	102

Metropolitan Division							
Columbus	30	19	10	1	39	86	73
Washington	30	18	11	1	37	94	88
New Jersey	29	16	9	4	36	89	91
N.Y. Islanders	29	16	10	3	35	105	99
Pittsburgh	31	16	12	3	35	93	102
N.Y. Rangers	29	16	11	2	34	98	87
Carolina	28	11	10	7	29	78	86
Philadelphia	29	11	11	7	29	83	86

Western Conference

	Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	31	21	8	2	44	104	78
Nashville	29	18	7	4	40	95	84
Winnipeg	30	17	8	5	39	102	86
Minnesota	29	15	11	3	33	87	87
Dallas	30	16	13	1	33	89	89
Chicago	30	14	11	5	33	90	82
Colorado	28	13	13	2	28	90	94

Pacific Division							
Los Angeles	31	20	8	3	43	97	68
Vegas	29	19	9	1	39	103	91
San Jose	29	16	10	3	35	79	69
Calgary	30	16	12	2	34	88	94
Vancouver	24	14	12	4	32	81	85
Anaheim	30	12	11	7	31	80	89
Edmonton	21	16	2	2	26	86	99
Arizona	33	7	21	5	19	75	114

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

Sunday's games						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis, 6, Montreal 2						
Colorado 7, Florida 3						
Tampa Bay 4, Winnipeg 3, OT						
Monday's games						
Edmonton 1, Arizona 0						
Boston 3, N.Y. Islanders 1						
Toronto 2, Pittsburgh 3						
N.Y. Rangers 5, New Jersey 2						
Vegas 5, Dallas 1						
San Jose 5, Ottawa 0						
Calgary 4, Vancouver 2						
Los Angeles 3, Carolina 2, OT						

Tuesday's games						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago 3, Arizona 1						
St. Louis 3, Buffalo 2, OT						
Edmonton 1, Montreal 0						
Minnesota 4, San Jose 3, OT						
Colorado at Pittsburgh						
Dallas at Tampa Bay						
Washington at N.Y. Islanders						
San Jose at Vancouver						
Vancouver at Winnipeg						
Carolina at Anaheim						
Tampa Bay at Buffalo						
Edmonton at Philadelphia						
Colorado at Washington						
Los Angeles at New Jersey						
Calgary at Minnesota						
Tampa Bay at St. Louis						
Florida at Chicago						
Carolina at Vegas						

Briefly

No 2-shot error for golf reviews

Associated Press

Players no longer will be penalized two shots for an incorrect scorecard if they were not aware of a rules violation when they signed their card.

The USGA and R&A also will no longer respond to most TV viewers' calls during the tournament.

The changes are part of a local rule effective Jan. 1.

Rescinding the scorecard penalty, falsely applied to Lexi Thompson at the LPGA Tour's first major last April, is part of a broader standard for using video.

Thompson had a three-shot lead in the final round of the ANA Inspiration when a TV viewer noticed she had improperly replaced her golf ball on the green during the third round.

She was penalized two shots for the infraction. Because that would have made her score two shots higher, she received an additional two-shot penalty for the scorecard error.

That became a four-shot penalty in the final hour of the tournament. Thompson rallied, but eventually lost to So Yeon Ryu in the first hole of a playoff.

Leaders from all major tours and organizations began meeting later that month.

The USGA and R&A are leading a group of top officials who are modernizing the Rules of Golf. The proposal currently is under public review and expected to be effective in 2019. The two-shot scorecard error would have been eliminated under the proposed rules.

The USGA and R&A also said only video from the telecast — not smart phones or other video from fans — can be used as evidence of a violation. It also said it would make it tougher for fans to call in if they think they see a violation on TV.

The change also means each tournament will assign one or more officials to monitor the video broadcast and help identify any violations or rules issues that might arise.

The PGA Tour has done this from time to time, but found that it often loses the use of a rules official on the course as he sits in a room watching TV for a violation that is rare over the course of the year.

According to the video review protocol for tournaments on TV, officials will not monitor or review any calls from views at home. That doesn't eliminate TV from the conversation, as he sits in a room watching TV for a violation that is rare over the course of the year.

In the case of the Masters, the viewer was a former rules expert who knew who to call at the course.

Russia says its athletes want to compete

MOSCOW — Russian athletes are overwhelmingly in favor of competing at the upcoming Pyeongchang Games despite a ban on the national team, the country's Olympic committee said Monday.

Sofia Velikaya said the Russian Olympic Committee's athletes' commission, which she chairs, has heard from "all the athletes in all sports" on the Olympic program, with a majority in favor of competing.

Velikaya said no athletes have told the ROC they would rather boycott.

"At the current moment, everyone's training and everyone's hoping to take part in the Olympics," Velikaya said.

The International Olympic Committee last week barred the Russian team from Pyeongchang because of doping offenses at the 2014 Sochi Games, but is allowing Russians to compete under a neutral flag as "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the government won't stand in their way.

ROC spokesman Konstantin Vyborno said teams from biathlon and snowboard had recorded videos affirming their desire to compete, while the men's hockey team has written "a collective letter."

Some Russian hardliners believe it is shameful for athletes to compete at the Olympics without their national flag. But Velikaya defended the athletes, saying everyone watching will know who is from Russia.

"The choice of competing at the Olympics is strictly individual," Velikaya said. "I call on Russian society to treat athletes' decisions with understanding and respect."

Expelled Yale captain has enrolled at Belmont

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Former Yale basketball captain Jack Montague, who was expelled from the Ivy League school in 2016 for sexual misconduct, has quietly enrolled at Belmont University in Tennessee.

Montague, who is still suing to be readmitted to Yale, complained in a court deposition last spring that he was unable to apply to other schools. He said Yale would not release his transcript until he paid a disputed tuition bill.

Karen Schwartzman, a spokeswoman for Montague, says Yale later released the transcript, allowing Montague to enroll at Belmont this fall. She says not all of his credits transferred and he will need two semesters to graduate. He exhausted his basketball eligibility at Yale.

NFL

Rodgers set to return after Packers win in OT

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Aaron Rodgers stood on the sideline, fighting off the December chill inside a large green Packers jacket and stocking cap.

His game-day look could soon be more familiar.

Relegated to be a cheerleader since breaking his collarbone in October, Rodgers may be back on the field next Sunday for Green Bay, which kept its playoff hopes ticking by rallying to beat the Cleveland Browns 27-21 in overtime.

The Packers (7-6) overcame a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter and were helped by the always generous Browns (0-

13), who found yet another way to lose and are now three defeats from NFL infancy.

Brett Hundley, who had the unenviable job of stepping in as Rodgers' part-time replacement, threw three touchdown passes, and the Packers forced Browns rookie quarterback Deshaun Kizer into a critical mistake in the OT to keep their season relevant.

When Rodgers went down on Oct. 15, slammed to the turf by Minnesota linebacker Anthony Barr, the Packers' season seemed to be as good as over. But Green Bay managed to go 3-4 without its star QB, winning the past two weeks in OT, and the Packers are now poised to make a postseason push.

"We're like a zombie, we refuse to go

down," said Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari. "That's a nice characteristic you want from a team when physically, the injuries are piling up. I don't know what percentage we've had with back-to-back overtime games and having two walk-offs. It's definitely a momentum builder."

The Packers are rolling indeed. Rodgers returned to practice in pads last week, and as long as he clears medical tests this week, he is expected to be back behind center when the Packers visit Carolina.

Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy ducked any questions about Rodgers' status, preferring to keep the focus on his team's gutty comeback and not the return of his two-time MVP.

"We love Aaron Rodgers, but I will not

answer any questions about him today," McCarthy said. "This is about winning the game. He's still in the medical situation, and as soon as we have the information, we will try to get it to you."

After Packers safety Josh Jones intercepted Kizer early in overtime, Hundley connected on a short pass to Davante Adams, who spun out of a tackle and scored Green Bay's game-winning TD before running into the tunnel and straight to the locker room.

Rodgers wasn't far behind. In a few days, he may be leading again.

Hundley finished 35-for-46 for 265 yards without an interception and exploited Cleveland's defense with bubble screens and quick-hitting passes.

Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 28

49ers 26, Texans 16	
San Francisco 0 13 10 3-26	
Houston 6 7 0-16	
First Quarter	
Hou—FG Fairbairn 55, 9:02.	
Second Quarter	
SF—FG Gould 52, 6:21.	
SF—Hyde 2 run (Gould kick), 2:32.	
Hou—Hopkins 7 pass from Yates (kick failed), :54.	
SF—FG Gould 35, 0:00.	
Third Quarter	
Hou—Hopkins 9 pass from Yates (Fairbairn kick), 12:11.	
SF—FG Gould 25, 8:12.	
SF—Calek 6 pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 1:53.	
Fourth Quarter	
SF—FG Gould 41, 3:50.	
A—71, 8:02.	

First downs	SF 18	Hou 18
Total Net Yards	416	311
Rushes-yards	31-102	23-90
Passing	314	221
Punt Returns	2-15	4-3
Kickoff Returns	2-42	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-2
Comp-Att-Pct	20-37 54.1	20-32 62.5
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-20	3-17
Fumbles-Lost	5-14	6-52
Penalties-Yards	11-87	8-81
Time of Possession	34:49	25:11

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING: San Francisco, Hyde 14-78, Breida 12-27, Garoppolo 5-(minus 3). Houston, Miller 17-53, Yates 3-31, Ellington 3-6.	
PASSING: San Francisco, Garoppolo 20-31-334. Houston, Savage 6-12-63, Yates 14-26-0-175.	
RECEIVING: San Francisco, Goodwin 6-106, Juszczyk 3-64, Celek 2-67, Bourne 2-19, Robinson 2-27, Taylor 2-11, Kittle 2-10, Murphy 1-20. Houston, Hopkins 11-149, W.L. Miller 3-26, Anderson 2-16, L. Miller 2-7, White 1-24, Ellington 1-16.	
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Houston, Fairbairn 52.	

Cowboys 30, Giants 10

Dallas 7 0 20-30	
New York 0 10 0-10	
First Quarter	
Dal—FG Bailey 21, 7:14.	
Second Quarter	
NYG—FG Rosas 39, 12:50.	
NYG—Ellison 1 pass from Manning (Rosas kick), 2:07.	
Dal—Bryant 50 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 1:38.	
Fourth Quarter	
Dal—Written 20 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 7:38.	
Dal—R. Smith 81 pass from Prescott (A—70), 4:08.	
Dal—R. Smith 15 run (Bailey kick), 2:57.	
A—78, 1:25.	

First downs	Dal 19	NYG 21
Total Net Yards	454	330
Rushes-yards	31-122	29-102
Passing	332	228
Punt Returns	4-36	1-(minus 4)
Kickoff Returns	2-59	4-48
Interceptions Ret.	2-12	0-0
Comp-Att-Pct	20-30 66.7	31-46 67.2
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-47	8-43
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-51	7-69
Time of Possession	32:07	32:53

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING: Dallas, A.Morris 19-62, R. Smith 6-47, Prescott 6-13, New York, Gallman 12-59, Darshaw 10-29, Vereen 6-20, Manning 1-(minus 9).	
PASSING: Dallas, Prescott 20-30-332. New York, Manning 31-46-330.	
RECEIVING: Dallas, R. Smith 5-113, Bryant 3-23, Manning 1-14. New York, A.Morris 3-23, Witten 1-20, Hanna 1-16, K. Smith 1-3.	
NEW YORK: R. Lewis 7-46, Gallman 7-40, Engram 4-26, Vereen 3-24, Shepard 2-16, Darshaw 2-15.	
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Dallas, Bailey 53, Bailey 50.	

FROM BACK PAGE

Pederson insisted the offense won't change with Foles.

"He's a highly intelligent football player," Pederson said.

A third-round pick by the Eagles coach Andy Reid in 2012, Foles is in his second stint in Philadelphia. He replaced an injured Michael Vick in 2013 and led the Eagles to an NFC East title during Chip Kelly's first season as coach. Foles tied an NFL record with seven TD passes in a game at Oakland in November 2013 and finished that season with 27 TDs and only two picks. The Eagles lost at home to New Orleans in the playoffs. Foles went to the Pro Bowl and was the game's offensive MVP.

But Kelly traded Foles to St. Louis for Sam Bradford after the 2014 season. Foles spent a year with the Rams, a season with the Chiefs and returned to Philadelphia as a free agent this season.

Second-year Pro Bowl quarterback Carson Wentz is Philadelphia's No. 3 quarterback. Pederson said he hasn't spoken to personnel boss Howie Roseman about adding a third quarterback yet.

"I'm absolutely ready to go — need be," Foles said after the win over the Rams. "I prepare every day."

The Eagles have overcome several key injuries and now have to move forward without their most indispensable player. Nine-time Pro Bowl left tackle Jason Peters, retired specialist/running back Darren Sproles, star linebacker Jordan Hicks and special teams captain Chris Maragos already went down for the season.

But they're not the franchise quarterback.

"It [stinks] more so for Carson as a person and a friend and a teammate and what he puts into the game and his preparation," safety Malcolm Jenkins said.

"But as a team we have all our

goals in front of us."

Wentz is the latest NFL star to go down in a season in which several high-profile players have been sidelined. Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman and safety Kam Chancellor, Texans defensive lineman J.J. Watt and quarterback Deshaun Watson,



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz is tackled by Rams linebacker Samson Ebukam on Sunday in Los Angeles. Wentz tore his ACL on the play, and he will miss the rest of the season and the playoffs.

Giants receivers Odell Beckham Jr. and Brandon Marshall, Chiefs safety Eric Berry, Browns tackle Joe Thomas, and Vikings running back Dalvin Cook and Bradford, now also in Minnesota, each sustained season-ending injuries.

After starting all 16 games as a rookie, Wentz made a giant leap this year. He passed for 3,296 yards, 33 TDs and only seven

interceptions.

Wentz again was spectacular against the Rams before he got hurt after getting hit hard as he scrambled into the end zone on a play that was called back because of holding. He stayed in the game and threw a 3-yard TD pass to Alshon Jeffery on fourth down four plays later, setting the franchise record for most TD passes

in a season.

"It shows how tough he is," Pederson said.

Despite the injury, Wentz celebrated the victory over the Rams (9-4) with teammates.

"He's one of the leaders on the team. He was there congratulating and celebrating with everyone," Foles said.

NFL ROUNDUP

13 **7**

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — LeSean McCoy scored on a 21-yard run with 1:33 left in overtime to secure Buffalo's win in a wintry, white-out setting best suited for snow shoes and sled dogs.

McCoy finished with 156 yards rushing and topped the 1,000-yard mark for the sixth time in his career on a slick, snow-covered field.

The Bills' sideline erupted after McCoy's touchdown, with numerous players running on to the field to either make snow angels or engage in celebratory snowball fights.

Buffalo (7-6) stayed alive in the AFC playoff picture, while the Colts (3-10) were mathematically eliminated from playoff contention.

The game began in nearly white-out conditions with a major lake-effect storm blowing in off nearby Lake Erie. The snow fell so hard a half-hour before kickoff it was nearly impossible to see New Era Field's west-end scoreboard from the east-end stands.

43 **35**

LOS ANGELES — Carson Wentz threw for 291 yards and four touchdowns before leaving with a knee injury, and Jake Elliott kicked the go-ahead 33-yard field goal with 3:45 left as the Eagles clinched the NFC East title.

Wentz was hit hard and as he scrambled into the end zone on a play that was called back because of a penalty, he stayed in the game and threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Alshon Jeffery four plays later to give the Eagles the lead.

Foles replaced Wentz on the next drive for Philadelphia (11-2).

12 **7**

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Phil Dawson kicked four second-half field goals and the Cardinals shut down Tennessee's offense nearly all day.

Dawson connected from 47, 23, 32 and 35 yards and missed from 40 for the Cardinals (6-7), whose victory came two weeks after they beat then-AFC South leader Jacksonville on the same field.

Cardinals' interior lineman Marcus Mariota twice in the second half after the Titans (8-5) nursed a 7-0 lead at halftime.

30 **13**

CARSON, Calif. — Philip Rivers passed for 319 yards and two touchdowns, and the Chargers continued their ferocious playoff push with their fourth straight victory.

Tyrell Williams caught a 75-yard touchdown pass and Hunter Henry had another scoring grab for the Chargers (7-6), who have won seven of nine after a 0-4 start to their reloaded season.

While outscoring their opponents 131-53 during their winning streak, the Chargers also moved above .500 for the first time since September 2015 with a dominant offensive performance.

The Chargers stayed atop the AFC West alongside the Chiefs (7-6), their opponents Saturday.



Colts outside linebacker Barkevious Mingo, right, tries to tackle Bills running back LeSean McCoy during the second half Sunday in Orchard Park, N.Y.

26 **15**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kareem Hunt ran for 116 yards and a touchdown and the Chiefs shut down Derek Carr and his offense to snap a four-game losing streak. The suddenly stingy Chiefs (7-6) also made a big statement in the crowded AFC West race. They are tied atop the division with the Chargers; the Raiders are 6-7.

Alex Smith threw for 268 yards and Charcandrick West had a touchdown run for the Chiefs, who held the Raiders without points until Marshawn Lynch's 22-yard run with 8:51 to go.

By that point, the Chiefs were cruising toward their 14th win in 15 divisional games.

Carr was 24-for-41 for 211 yards with a touchdown and two picks, a far cry from his performance when the teams met in October. Carr threw for 417 yards and three touchdowns that day, including the winning toss to Michael Crabtree on the final play of the game.

30 **10**

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Dak Prescott threw three touchdown passes and the desperate Cowboys spoiled Steve Spagnuolo's debut as interim coach, as well as the return of quarterback Eli Manning to the Giants' starting lineup.

Prescott threw a go-ahead 20-yard score to tight end Jason Witten with 7:38 to play. Rod Smith scored on an 81-yard pass play with 4:08 left and added a 15-yard scoring run a little more than a minute later after an interception by Sean Lee.

Prescott, who was 20-for-30 for 332 yards, also threw a 50-yard scoring pass to Dez Bryant as the Cowboys (7-6) stayed in the playoff hunt with three games left.

23 **0**

DENVER — The Broncos snapped their longest losing streak since joining the NFL in 1970 thanks to wide receiver Demaryius Thomas' big game and a return of Denver's stingy defense.

Trevor Siemian threw for 200 yards and his favorite target was Thomas, who caught eight passes for 93 yards and a touchdown as the Broncos (4-9) avoided tying their franchise futility record of nine consecutive losses set way back in 1967.

This was their first win in 70 days — and their first shutout since Nov. 20, 2005, a 27-0 win over the Jets. It was fueled by a defense that held New York in check all afternoon.

The Jets (5-8) were limited to 100 yards of offense, 59 on the ground and 41 through the air.

24 **21**

TAMPA, Fla. — Matthew Stafford passed for 381 yards with an injured throwing hand and set up Matt Prater for a 46-yard field goal in the closing seconds.

Stafford made his 109th consecutive start despite being limited in practice after his right hand was lacerated during the previous week at Baltimore. He completed 36 of 44 attempts against the Bucs (4-9), and the Lions (7-6) overcame two interceptions and a fumble to stop a two-game losing streak.

James Winston rallied Tampa Bay, which has lost eight of 10 following a 2-1 start, with a pair of fourth-quarter TD passes. But the Bucs' defense couldn't hold off an opponent down the stretch.

Stafford moved the Lions 49 yards in eight plays to set up Prater's winning kick with 20 seconds left — the winning drive of the quarterback's career, and fourth this season.

26 **16**

HOUSTON — Jimmy Garoppolo threw for a career-high 334 yards and a touchdown to help the 49ers to their second straight win. Garoppolo again showed that he could be the answer for the 49ers (3-10) at quarterback, going 20-for-33 in his second start for the team. Acquired before the trade deadline from New England, Garoppolo threw for 293 yards in his debut last week to help the 49ers to a 15-14 win at Chicago.

The game was tied when he found Garrett Celek on a 6-yard touchdown pass with about two minutes left in the third quarter to make it 23-16.

DeAndre Hopkins had 149 yards receiving and two touchdowns, but lost a fumble in the fourth quarter with the Texans down by 7.

T.J. Yates threw for 175 yards and two touchdowns after Tom Savage left with a concussion in the second quarter.

33 **7**

CINCINNATI — Rookie Mitchell Trubisky threw for a touchdown and ran for another in his best showing yet, and the Bears ended a five-game losing streak with their most lopsided victory in five years.

Jordan Howard ran for 147 yards and a pair of touchdowns as the Bears (4-9) dominated a matchup of the NFL's worst offenses. Their rookie quarterback took full advantage of an injury-depleted defense, completing a season-high 25 passes out of 32 attempts for 271 yards.

The Bears piled up a season-high 482 yards against a unit missing starting cornerbacks Adam "Pacman" Jones and Dre Kirkpatrick, as well as linebackers Vontaze Burfitt and Nick Vigil.

Seven for Sunday

■ The Philadelphia Eagles improved to 11-2 and clinched the NFC East division title with a 43-35 victory at the Los Angeles Rams. The Eagles, who finished in last place in the division in 2016, completed a "worst-to-first" turnaround. At least one team has won its division the season after finishing in or tied for last place in 14 of the past 15 seasons. The Rams and Eagles entered the game each averaging 30.1 points per game, tied for the highest mark in the NFL this season.

■ Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers passed for 319 yards and two touchdowns in the team's 30-13 win over Washington. Rivers has 3,611 passing yards this season and reached the 3,500-yard mark for the 10th consecutive season (2008-17). Rivers is the third quarterback in NFL history to pass for at least 3,500 yards in 10 consecutive seasons, joining Peyton Manning (13, 1998-2010) and Drew Brees (13, 2005-17).

■ Carolina QB Cam Newton had a 62-yard run to the Minnesota edge line to set up the game-winning TD in the Panthers' 31-24 win over the Vikings. Newton, who had a 69-yard run in Week 10, is the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to have multiple 60+ yard rushes in a single season.

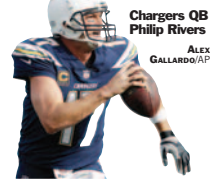
■ Arizona wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald had 44 receiving yards in the Cardinals' 12-7 win over Tennessee. Fitzgerald has 15,311 career receiving yards and surpassed Randy Moss (15,292) to move into third place on the NFL's all-time receiving yards list. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice (22,696) and Tom Owens (15,934) had more career receiving yards in league history.

■ Chicago running back Jordan Howard rushed for 147 yards and two touchdowns in the Bears' 33-7 win at Cincinnati. Howard, who rushed for 1,313 yards as a rookie last year, has 1,032 rushing yards this season. He is the first player in franchise history to rush for at least 1,000 yards in each of his first two NFL seasons.

■ The Green Bay Packers defeated Cleveland 27-21 in overtime. Green Bay wide receiver Davante Adams had two touchdown catches — a one-yard rushing TD and a 17-yard pass in the fourth quarter and the game-winning 25-yarder in overtime — in the win. The Packers, who won on a 20-yard touchdown run by rookie Aaron Jones in overtime last week, have scored a rushing touchdown and a receiving touchdown in overtime in the same season for the first time in franchise history. Green Bay has won back-to-back games in OT for the first time.

■ Carson, Calif. — Philip Rivers passed for 319 yards and two touchdowns, and the Chargers continued their ferocious playoff push with their fourth straight victory.

— nflcommunications.com



NFL

Steelers edge Ravens to clinch AFC North

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger's record-setting day finished with a carry just as valuable as any of the franchise-record 66 passes he threw.

As the Pittsburgh Steelers poured out to the Heinz Field turf to celebrate a frantic 39-38 victory over Baltimore that wrapped up their third AFC North title in four years, Roethlisberger grabbed the familiar No. 50 jersey of injured linebacker Ryan Shazier and joined in the party.

An emotionally draining week for the Steelers ended with Shazier recovering from spinal surgery in a nearby hospital but still very much in the middle of things. Just like always.

"We love our brother," Roethlisberger said. "We wanted to get this one for him, and I'm glad we did."

Barely. The Steelers (11-2) blew an early 14-point lead and found themselves trailing by 11 going into the fourth before exploding for 19 points over the final 15 minutes, the last three coming on Chris Boswell's 46-yard field goal with 42 seconds left.

"I think championship teams find ways to win," Roethlisberger said.

Having an offense that is starting to peak

after a sleepy start certainly helps. Roethlisberger threw for 506 yards and two scores to become the first player in NFL history to go over 500 yards passing three times in his career. Antonio Brown caught 11 passes for 213 yards to fuel an MVP candidacy that no longer feels so far-fetched, including gains of 57 and 34 yards in the fourth to spark Pittsburgh's comeback and running back Le'Veon Bell finished with 125 total yards and three scores.

"It's an amazing feeling, especially for Ryan Shazier," Brown said. "One of our brothers couldn't be out here today. Obviously, he is watching."

Shazier suffered his injury in the first quarter of a victory over Cincinnati last Monday. He underwent surgery on Wednesday and Roethlisberger visited him on Thursday.

"When you walk in and see him and see the smile and give him a hug, it really has taken that weight off and let us breathe a little easier," Roethlisberger said.

The Steelers have done their best to let Shazier know it's very much a part of their run. Linebacker James Harrison borrowed a page from Shazier's pregame routine and warmed up shirtless even with the temperature hovering around freezing. Shazier's helmet and jersey spent the game on the bench and several Steelers wore cleats

with a special design featuring Shazier's face and the popular '#Shalieve hashtag.

"It was very emotional," linebacker Arthur Moats said. "Any time you can bring something to him that brings him some type of joy, some type of happiness, that's good. At the end of the day we're just trying to make sure he's good."

Ravens rocked: Baltimore (7-6) meanwhile, saw its surge back to contention blunted after its defense spent the fourth quarter fruitlessly chasing Brown from one side of the field to the other.

"This is going to sting for a while," Ravens safety Eric Weddle said. "Especially the guys on defense because we care so much and we hold ourselves to a high standard."

The Ravens certainly didn't meet it after giving up 545 yards to the Steelers. Pittsburgh scored on its last four possessions. It's not like the Steelers were taking advantage of a short field. All eight of their scoring drives went at least 50 yards, including two of 80 or more.

"I think in the fourth quarter the defense dropped the ball tonight," linebacker Terrell Suggs said. "That's kind of been our thing all year, consistency."

Super showdown: The win sets up the AFC game of the year next Sunday when Tom Brady and the defending Super Bowl



Don Wright/AP

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger walks off the field holding the jersey of linebacker Ryan Shazier after beating the Baltimore Ravens 39-38 to clinch the AFC North. Shazier suffered a spinal cord injury in last week's game and is recovering from surgery.

champion New England Patriots visit. New England beat the Steelers twice last season, including a lopsided 36-17 blowout in the AFC title game.

"We're going to give respect where respect is due now," Pittsburgh center Maurkice Pouncey said. "But they're not Superman. They lost this season, right?"

Stewart's 3 TDs lift Panthers

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jonathan Stewart seemed determined that nobody is going to write the epitaph on his NFL career just yet.

The Panthers' 30-year-old running back and all-time leading rusher has played 129 games in his NFL career, but had never run for more than two touchdowns in a game.

That ended Sunday when Stewart matched his entire 2016 scoring production with TD runs of 60, 1 and 1 yards in Carolina's 31-24 win over the Minnesota Vikings.

"We didn't doubt him," said Panthers coach Ron Rivera. "That's why we kept putting Jonathan out there. We believe in who he is, and he has been solid."

Stewart's first score came on a 60-yard run on third-and-1 in the first quarter, which gave the Panthers an early lead. The Vikings had stacked the box against the Panthers' jumbo offensive set, and left guard Andrew Norwell pulled to make the key block to spring Stewart.

"You hope to just see a hole open because you just know there's no one else in the secondary," said Stewart.

Stewart scored on a 1-yard run on the second play of the second quarter, and his over-the-top 1-yard score with 1:47 left was the difference. He finished with 103 yards on 16 carries for his second 100-yard performance of the



Boe LeVernore/AP

The Panthers' Jonathan Stewart, top, dives over the goal line against the Vikings' Xavier Rhodes (29) for a touchdown during the second half Sunday in Charlotte, N.C.

season.

Olsen making progress: Three-time Pro Bowler Greg Olsen said he had a goal when he played his second game since missing 10 weeks with a broken right foot.

"I wanted to be on the field in victory formation," he said. "That means I played the whole game and we won."

Olsen was only targeted once and did not make a reception, but he finished the game. He did leave the field briefly in the first half, after taking a hit on the right ankle.

Vikings' Achilles' heel: The Vikings sacked Cam Newton eight times last season, but only got

to him twice on Sunday. Newton said he tried to get the ball out faster this time around.

He also was a problem for the Vikings in the running game, picking up 75 yards — including a key 62-yard run to set up the go-ahead touchdown with 2:00 remaining.

Newton, who had a 69-yard run in Week 10, is the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to have multiple 60-yard plus rushes in a single season.

The Vikings entered Sunday's game at Carolina holding opposing quarterbacks to 4.7 yards per carry.

Seahawks melt down late against Jaguars

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Blake Bortles threw two perfect passes for touchdowns, Jaydon Mickens set up another score with a 72-yard punt return and the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Seattle Seahawks 30-24 on Sunday.

The Jaguars (9-4) intercepted three passes by Russell Wilson, including two on deep balls, and won for the sixth time in their last seven games. This victory, coupled with Tennessee's loss at Arizona, moved Jacksonville atop the AFC South.

It's the first time since 2010 that the Jaguars have had the outright division lead this late in a season.

The loss didn't sit well with the Seahawks (8-5), who had two players ejected in the final minute. Defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson was ejected for throwing a punch during a melee that included defensive tackle Michael Bennett and Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette.

More pushing and shoving occurred after the next play, and defensive end Quinton Jefferson was tossed. Jefferson tried to climb into the stands after getting hit with what looked like a plastic bottle. Seattle coach Pete Carroll also got scuffed for coming onto the field. Carroll walked into Seattle's huddle, possibly to calm his players down.

The ending did little to ruin Jacksonville's celebration, which had a lot to do with Bortles and the league's top-ranked defense. Coming off one of the best games of his career, a 30-10 vic-

tory against Indianapolis, Bortles was equally efficient and effective against the Seahawks.

Two of his better throws ended up in the end zone. He floated an 18-yarder early in the third quarter to rookie Dede Westbrook, the first for the 2016 Heisman Trophy finalist. Bortles' second one was even better, a deep pass that hit Keelen Cole in stride and went for 75 yards.

Cole's second touchdown in as many weeks came on the ensuing play after Wilson connected with Doug Baldwin for a 26-yard score that tied it at 10.

Jacksonville's third-quarter surge wasn't done. Mickens zigzagged through the middle of Seattle's coverage team and ended up getting stopped at the 1-yard line. Leonard Fournette handled it from there, scoring for the ninth time this season.

That was enough — just barely — for Jacksonville's defense.

Trailing 27-10, Wilson avoided a sack and hit Paul Richardson for a 61-yard score. Down 30-17, Wilson connected with Tyler Lockett for a 74-yarder.

Wilson had a final chance to rally his team, but he failed to convert a fourth-and-9 pass from the Seattle 43.

Fournette iced the victory by gaining 13 yards on a third-and-11 play with less than 2 minutes remaining.

Wilson's early mistakes left Seattle in a huge hole. It was his first game with three or more picks since throwing five against Green Bay in December 2016.

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Worst-case scenario

Eagles' Wentz out for season with torn ACL

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA
Carson Wentz threw a touchdown pass a few plays after suffering an injury that could ruin a special season for the Philadelphia Eagles, and then stuck around to greet teammates and celebrate a division-clinching victory with them.

It's always team-first for No. 11. Wentz tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in a comeback win over the Rams on Sunday and will miss the rest of the season and playoffs, Eagles coach Doug Pederson confirmed.

Wentz, a favorite in the NFL MVP race, had an MRI on Monday that revealed the severity of the injury. Wentz was hurt late in the third quarter Sunday at Los Angeles. Backup Nick Foles rallied the Eagles (11-2) to a 43-35 win over the Rams that secured the NFC East title and put them in first place in the conference with three games remaining.

After the game, Wentz was driven in a cart up the tunnel at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and then hobbled to one of the team buses.

Wentz wrote on Twitter: "NFC East Champs! So proud of the resiliency of this team. Such a special group of men. And I greatly appreciate all the prayers! I know my God is a powerful one with a perfect plan. Time to just lean in to him and trust whatever the circumstances! #Proverbs3:5-6"

"Everyone is really excited about the win but you have your starting quarterback go down, it's emotional," Foles said. "It's emotional for me. I work with him every day so I'm dealing with that."

Foles led the Eagles to a pair of field goals on consecutive drives against the Rams. He is 20-17 as a starter in six seasons with the Eagles, Rams and Chiefs.

"If there's ever an opportunity for me to rally the troops as the football coach, now might be the time," Pederson said. "You can't lose faith. This has been a resilient football team all season long."

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Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz leaves the field during the second half Sunday against the Los Angeles Rams in Los Angeles.

KELVIN KUU/AP



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